

Khamenei named head of world's Shiites

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran has named its spiritual leader as the supreme head of the world's 100 million Shiite Muslims, a senior Iranian official said in an interview published Tuesday. Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the Iranian judiciary, told the English-language Iran News daily that Muslims around the world had chosen Grand Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as their leader. Iranian officials started referring to Mr. Khamenei as a grand ayatollah last week, when Grand Ayatollah Ali Araki, the supreme leader of the sect, died of old age. Traditionally the marja'as, or supreme spiritual leaders, of the Shiites has been chosen from the grand ayatollahs, the top ranking clerics in Iran or Iraq by theologians themselves in the leading Shiite seminaries in Qom and the holy city of Najaf in Iraq. There are less than a dozen grand ayatollahs alive. Khamenei, 55, possesses the qualifications of a middle-ranking cleric, and there has been no official word that he had been promoted to grand ayatollah by Iran's religious establishment.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

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Queen Beatrix arrives on 3-day state visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands and His Royal Highness Prince Claus arrived here Tuesday on a three-day visit to Jordan at the invitation of Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor. Queen Beatrix and her husband were accorded a full honour ceremony on arrival at Amman Airport.

Queen Beatrix and Prince Claus were welcomed upon arrival by Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, in addition to Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Princess Taghrid, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Princess Sarvath, Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, Princess Rania, Prince Talal Ibn Mohammad, Princess Ghida, Prince Ghazi Ibn Mohammad, Princess Sumayyah Al Hassan and several Royal family members.

Also receiving the royal couple were Prime Minister

Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, and senior civil and military officials.

Queen Beatrix and Prince Claus are accompanied by an official delegation, including the foreign minister, the royal court chief and senior Dutch officials.

Just prior to the arrival of the Dutch Royal couple King Hussein expressed hope that Jordan would set a good example for others in the region in the application of democratic rule.

Speaking to a Dutch television crew accompanying the Queen on her visit to Jordan, the King said Jordan applies democracy, exercises political pluralism and respects human rights.

He said Jordan is ready to contribute to the cause of democracy in this new era of peace much more than in the past.

On Dutch-Jordanian relations the King said: "We are

extremely close and very good friends and our relations are the best in mutual respect, and cooperation is desired to grow far beyond that."

The King, who was speaking at Al Nadwa Palace, said Holland has always had a very special role, and "as far as we are concerned a special place in our hearts."

Later on Tuesday Queen Beatrix and Prince Claus visited the martyr's monument, where they were received by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Abdul Hafez Al Ka'abneh, and senior Armed Forces officers. Gen. Ka'abneh presented Queen Beatrix with the monument's medal as a commemorative gift.

The Queen hosted a reception at her residence in Hashemite Palace in honour of the Dutch community. The reception was attended by the Dutch ambassador to Jordan and the honorary consul of the Netherlands.

Later, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Sataan Al Hassan received his Dutch counterpart and discussed with him bilateral relations particularly in such areas as tourism and economic cooperation. The two also discussed preparation made for the Amman economic conference which will be held next year.

Mr. Al Hassan briefed the Dutch foreign minister on the dimensions of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and Jordan's central role in the peace process.

The guest praised Jordan's role in the peace process and voiced his country's interest in broadening scopes of cooperation with Jordan in various fields.

On Tuesday evening King Hussein and Queen Noor hosted a dinner banquet at Basman Palace in honour of Queen Beatrix and Prince Claus. Both monarchs exchanged speeches on the occasion of the queen's visit (texts of both speeches on page 12).

His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday evening addresses his guests, Queen Beatrix and Prince Claus, at a dinner hosted for the royal couple at Basman Palace

European summit ends in shambles

BUDAPEST (AFP) — A key security summit, billed as a new forum for settling European conflicts, ended in shambles Tuesday when 52 countries failed to agree on how to deal with the Bosnian conflict, the bloodiest of the old continent since the close of World War II.

Despite intensive consultations, no consensus on a final statement could be found, the conference chairman and summit host, Hungarian President Arpad Goncz, said at the close of the two-day Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe summit.

The Bosnian delegate, for his party, delivered a ringing denunciation of the CSCE's failure to live up to its principles.

"The documents being adopted today eloquently repeat CSCE principles and the commitment of all participating states to them, but the reality is that such professions are not upheld," Mamar Hajjametovic said.

"You repeatedly allowed the Serbs to commit aggression, you allowed the starvation and strangulation of other people. You even allowed the Serbs to make a mockery of the international community," the Bosnian delegate said.

He queried the worth of strengthening the CSCE and its conflict prevention and crisis management mechanisms "when the political will to uphold CSCE principles is so lacking."

Mr. Hajjametovic said one delegation (Russia) had refused to agree to a statement condemning the aggression against Bihać, a northwestern Bosnian Muslim-held enclave.

Ex-Snia had been one of the key issues under discussion at the summit, but both Russia and Bosnia had rejected a compromise statement, Mr.

Yeltsin: U.S. cannot run world

MOSCOW (AFP) — President Boris Yeltsin lashed out at U.S. dominance of world policy on Tuesday, saying that the United States had tried to run the CSCE summit in Budapest. "I hope you clearly understood my words when I said that the destiny of the whole world must not be decided in one capital," he said in a television broadcast, clearly referring to Washington. Mr. Yeltsin said President Bill Clinton had been hoping to turn the two-day Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), which closed in Budapest on Tuesday, into a U.S.-run show. "He wanted to inaugurate and preside over a little summit" marking Ukraine's signing of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Mr. Yeltsin said on Ostankino television broadcast here, "If that's what he wanted to do, he didn't succeed, therefore he was not at all the victor," Mr. Yeltsin said.

Goncz said.

Russia vetoed part of the statement which referred to the Bosnian Serbs as "aggressors" in the Muslim-held enclave of Bihać in northwest Bosnia.

Bosnia rejected a ceasefire call because summiters had rejected the reference to Serb "aggressors."

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and other speakers, including the U.S. delegate, regretted that a ceasefire had not been agreed to.

Mr. Kohl said he feared reaction back home if young Germans thought the summit had got bogged down, and stressed that winter was setting in and hunger stricken people in the war zones.

Russia was also the centre of other major differences at the Budapest summit, with President Boris Yeltsin opposing the United States on possible expansion of the NATO military alliance to the Russian border.

The Yeltsin government had been seeking increased CSCE intervention and peacekeeping powers to restore its great-power "sphere of influence," analysts said.

But Russia accepted a compromise deal for sending a CSCE force to the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh enclave in Azerbaijan, an ex-Soviet

republic to which it wanted to send its own troops.

Russia was accorded co-chairmanship of the nine-country group tasked with preventing resurgence of fighting over the Armenian-populated territory.

"We are determined to give a new political impetus to the CSCE, thus enabling it to play an essential role in meeting the challenges of the 21st century," a document adopted by the CSCE summit said.

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali had urged the summit Monday to issue a call for negotiations in Bosnia as the only solution.

U.S. President Bill Clinton, Chancellor Helmut Kohl and British Prime Minister John Major also called in Budapest on the Bosnian Serbs to stop fighting and accept negotiations based on the "contact group" plan.

The plan sponsored by Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the United States calls for division of Bosnia-Herzegovina — 49 per cent for Serbs and 51 per cent for a federation of Bosnian Muslims and Croats.

The Serb forces which currently hold some 70 per cent of the war-ravaged former Yugoslav republic have rejected the plan.

By Lamis K. Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein Tuesday accepted the resignation of Deputy Prime Minister Thoqan Hindawi but no reshuffle or change in the Cabinet was expected prior to the ratification of the 1995 fiscal budget that will be debated in Parliament today.

Political analysts expected the veteran politician's withdrawal from the cabinet to weaken the government's position during the parliamentary debate on an already controversial budget.

Although differences between Mr. Hindawi and Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali were well-known, his sudden resignation came as a surprise especially that Mr. Hindawi was personally brought to the Cabinet upon a request by King Hussein.

In his resignation letter Mr. Hindawi cited "lack of achievement and cloudiness" of government policies. Well-informed analysts, including Parliament members and former ministers, were divided on assessing the motivations behind Mr. Hindawi's resignation.

While some viewed it as a strong political statement to

protest against the government's management of the peace era others dismissed it as an attempt to undermine the Cabinet and consequently accelerate the process of its departure from the scene.

"It will not work. The Palace has traditionally refused to act under pressure," said one critic of Mr. Hindawi.

But various accounts of what happened at the last Cabinet meeting attended by the former deputy minister suggest that even if Mr. Hindawi was indeed trying to weaken the government there were significant differences over how to manage the peace era.

According to one account, Mr. Hindawi has not been pleased with the government's performance since the first day he was included in it as part of a major reshuffle on June 8, but it was his expressed reservations about the government's efforts to ensure financial aid to Jordan that prompted him to leave.

During a Cabinet meeting held the Saturday before last, one well-placed source said, Mr. Hindawi reacted negatively to the going deputy prime minister.

(Continued on page 7)

Egypt dismisses reports of 'mysterious' deaths in Jordan, Iraq

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian ministers dismissed on Tuesday local press reports that unusual numbers of Egyptian workers in Iraq and Jordan were dying violent deaths.

For several weeks Egyptians were coming home in coffins with injuries that did not match the stated cause of death.

The reports were reminiscent of those during the crisis of 1989, when tens of thousands of Egyptians left Iraq because of reports that Iraqis discharged from the army and desperate for jobs were beating and killing other Egyptian workers.

Out of the 272 Egyptians, 178 died of natural causes and 48 from traffic or work accidents. Twelve were executed — five in Jordan and seven in Iraq — and two were murdered in personal or family disputes, he said.

"These rates are no more than one would expect, given the size of the expatriate population in these countries.

Arab countries or of death squads set up to attack them.

Mustafa Abdul Aziz, assistant foreign minister for emigration affairs, told the committee that in the first 11 months of this year 151 Egyptians had died in Jordan and 121 in Iraq.

He gave a breakdown of the causes of death in all the cases, except for 32 in Iraq for which he said the cause was unknown.

He said there were 300,000 Egyptians in Jordan and at least 200,000 in Iraq, though the figures for Iraq are not exact.

The reports in the newspapers contained much unjustified exaggeration," he added.

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Algerian newspapers strike against killing

TUNIS (R) — Algeria's main newspapers staged a strike Tuesday in protest against murders of journalists by Muslim fundamentalist guerrillas. The strike followed the killing of Said Mekbel, editor of *Le Matin*, who was shot in the head Saturday by suspected militants as he ate in a restaurant in Algiers. He was buried on Tuesday in his home town Bejaia. Mr. Mekbel was the 27th journalist to be killed since June 1993 in attacks blamed on Muslim militants, according to the French group Reporters Sans Frontières (reporters without borders). "The only way left for us to express loyalty to the martyrs of the profession is to keep newspapers distributed," the daily *El Monajid* said Tuesday. Three government-controlled dailies ignored the strike, called by the Newspaper Editors Association. Eight leading newspapers went on strike for three days in October when two other journalists were shot dead. The government pledged Sunday to tighten security for journalists and plans to house some in guarded areas.

Israeli Likud leader Netanyahu pays one-day visit to Jordan

By Ghadeer Taber
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan held talks Tuesday with Israel's right-wing Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu during his first visit to the Kingdom on the future of the peace in the region and ways to support the process.

King Hussein, who received the opposition leader at the Royal Court, said that he and Mr. Netanyahu had "not only similar views but identical views on the subjects that were discussed so far."

The King, who said he hoped the upcoming period will witness work towards supporting the peace process, discussed with the Knesset member the future of the peace process, the interests of both the Jordanian and Israeli people and the region as a whole.

"There is no opposition to peace in Israel. There is a loyal opposition that locally supports any genuine peace that Israel has with any Arab country, any Arab party. This is the peace we have with Jordan," Mr. Netanyahu told journalists in answer to a question about the role of the opposition in Israel.

"It is a peace that received the support of almost the entire Israeli parliament... I must say that my visit... has confirmed the sincerity and desire for peace, genuine peace, peace of prosperity, peace of security that we have with Jordan. This reflects our policy and continues to reflect our policy," said the Likud leader, who returned back through the King Hussein Bridge after concluding his one-day visit.

The Likud Party has said it backs Israel's peace treaty with Jordan, but a powerful faction of the party had long supported the idea of creating a Palestinian state inside Jordan instead of the West Bank and Gaza occupied by Israel in 1967 war.

Mr. Netanyahu, who acted as spokesman for the Israeli negotiating team during the first several rounds of talks held in Washington, repeatedly supported this position arguing that the Palestinians already had a state in Jordan since many of Jordan's 4.5 million people are of Palestinian origin.

"As far as we are concerned what is important is that there is a definable Israel today and a definable Jordan and definable not only in terms of borders but in terms of economic parameters, social parameters and legal parameters."

"We abhor violence and act against it. We look to the international community as we did as part of the donors conference recently held in Brussels for further convincing evidence of a desire to develop the rights of the Palestinian people and their search for a better quality of life," the Crown Prince added.



Benjamin Netanyahu

rameters," Crown Prince Hassan said in answer to a question about Likud's long-held position that Jordan is Palestine.

"I think this is a position we have to consolidate," the Crown Prince, who described the talks as an exchange of views rather than negotiations, told journalists accompanying him and Mr. Netanyahu to the Martyrs' Monument in Karameh. Mr. Netanyahu, who laid a wreath at the monument, suggested a joint Israeli-Jordanian monument be erected to mark the soldiers who fell on both sides.

"I could not agree more," Mr. Netanyahu said concurring with the Prince's view. "There is no question that we in the Likud believe that the integrity of Jordan and of the present government in Jordan is in Israel's interest. It is not against our interest but very much in our interest," he said.

Asked if Jordan would held Israel find an alternative to negotiating with the Palestine Liberation Organization, which the Likud leader still brands as a terrorist group, Prince Hassan said: "I want to say very clearly that we are fully supportive of the desire of the Palestinian people to further discussions with the government of Israel. We are supportive of institution-building by the Palestinian people, we are supportive of the creation of a stable dialogue between Israel and the Palestinian people."

"We abhor violence and act against it. We look to the international community as we did as part of the donors conference recently held in Brussels for further convincing evidence of a desire to develop the rights of the Palestinian people and their search for a better quality of life," the Crown Prince added.

(Continued on page 3)

Palestinians, Israelis hold crucial talks

CAIRO (R) — A new round of Israeli-Palestinian talks opened here Tuesday aimed at setting a target date for the staging of self-rule elections and an Israeli army redeployment on the West Bank.

The negotiations were being held against a background of growing concern by the Israeli military over the security implications of any pullback on the West Bank, home to 120,000 Jewish settlers and more than a million Palestinians.

Israeli army chiefs have warned that a redeployment on the occupied West Bank, which should take place by the eve of the elections in line with the 1993 autonomy agreement, will only multiply the flashpoints with the Palestinians.

PLO chief negotiator Nabil Shaath said the negotiators would try to set a "target date" as soon as possible for the elections and redeployment, adding "we are ready

to negotiate every necessary measure to maintain security in the West Bank as well as Gaza."

One committee was discussing the elections and the other the army withdrawal.

"This morning the two sides discussed how to organize the negotiations. Detailed talks began this afternoon in the two committees," an Israeli delegate said on condition his name not be used.

He said there were 300,000 Egyptians in Jordan and at least 200,000 in Iraq, though the figures for Iraq are not exact.

He said there were 300,0

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PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Tao-Tao

17:30 Les Trésors Du Monde

19:00 News in French

19:45 E-M6

19:30 Coach

20:00 Life in the Freezer

20:00 Quatre Leaps

21:30 Snowy River

22:30 News in English

22:30 Snowy River

23:10 Coming of Age

PRAYER TIMES

Fajr (Sunrise) Dhuhr

11:27 Dhuhr

14:13 Asr

16:56 Maghrib

17:58 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Sweileh, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel.

6327440

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851

Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel.

771331. Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Annam International Church Tel.

652526. Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.

652428. German-speaking Evangelical Con-

gregation Tel. 684195

The Church of Jesus Christ of

Letter-Day-Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazarene Tel. 673691.

The Evangelical Local Church in

Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department

of Meteorology.

Temperatures will continue to rise with clouds building up and winds becoming southeasterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, moderate weather conditions will prevail with winds northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 0/12

Aqaba 10/22

Deserts 1/13

Jordan Valley 6/20

Yesterdays high temperatures:

Amman 10 Aqaba 20. Humidity

Khalidh pharmacy 985417

readings: Amman 59 per cent.

Aqaba 47 per cent.

USEFUL

TELEPHONE

NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Ghaleb Zawaidi 736011

Dr. Suleiman Belhadj 663412

Dr. Yousef Nass 751144

Dr. Khalid Afour 666873

Firdous pharmacy 661912

Fordous pharmacy 778332

Al Asmaa pharmacy 637055

Nasr Pharmacy 636725

Al Salam pharmacy 636720

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Nairoofi pharmacy 632672

Najibh pharmacy 847632

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 0/12

Aqaba 10/22

Deserts 1/13

Jordan Valley 6/20

Yesterdays high temperatures:

Amman 10 Aqaba 20. Humidity

Khalidh pharmacy 985417

IRBD:

Dr. Mohammad Al Hilu 279773

Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Walid Halasch 982709

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Electric Power Company 815615

Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

Yesterdays high temperatures:

Amman 10 Aqaba 20. Humidity

Khalidh pharmacy 985417

readings: Amman 59 per cent.

Aqaba 47 per cent.

EMERGENCIES

Flood Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192. 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 735121

Hospital 669131

Traffic Police 806320

Public Security Department 630121

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality Complaints 877111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Call 010230

Central Amman Telephone Reitors 623101

Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Telephone 731111

Radio Jordan 637111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 674155

Amal Hospital 602340/50

Al Malak Hospital 669131

Al Shmeisani Hospital 669131

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Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday awards certificates to women from Madaba who completed a two-month course on the importance of tourism.

Princess Basma awards graduates of tourism awareness course

MADABA (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday attended the graduation ceremony of a Friends of Tourism course organised by the Madaba Tourism Activation Office on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday.

Madaba Governor Abdul Qader Hababneh delivered an address in which he stressed that Jordan should always be prepared to deal with developments and changes.

Secretary General of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities Ghassan Mufleh said in another address that Jordan cares about expanding its various tourism activi-

ties. The Kingdom, Dr. Mufleh said, is working to spread public awareness of tourism through a campaign of distributing brochures, organising lectures, holding film and slide shows and promoting tourist attractions in the local market and abroad.

Director of the Madaba Tourism Activation Office Ghaleb Masarweh lauded Princess Basma's role in supporting voluntary and social societies, saying the course was organised by his office to spread awareness of the importance of tourism in the Madaba governorate.

Mr. Masarweh also praised His Majesty King Hussein's

role in supporting the tourism sector, which he described as one of the main pillars of the Jordanian economy.

At the end of the ceremony, Princess Basma distributed diplomas to the 55 women graduates, representing charity societies and the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GEJW) and awards to the excelling ones.

The participants in the two-month course were given lectures and practical training on dealing with tourists, protecting the environment, maintaining archaeological sites and ways to spread public awareness of the importance of tourism.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Nepal, Ivory Coast and Finland

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent two cables to King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Nepal and President Félix Houphouët Boigny of the Ivory Coast congratulating them on their national days and wishing them continued good health and happiness and their respective peoples further progress and prosperity.

The King also sent a similar cable to President Mauno Koivisto of Finland, congratulating him on his country's opportunities to the unemployed and support independence day and wishing him continued the incomes of needy families.

Princess Basma opens QAF exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday opened the annual exhibition of the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF) which displays handicrafts and rugs produced by QAF's income generating projects aiming to provide job opportunities to the unemployed and support independence day and wishing him continued the incomes of needy families.



HERITAGE THROUGH CERAMICS: Her Shaker at Abaad Art Gallery. The two-Royal Highness Princess Rania Abdullah week exhibition includes ceramics and Tuesday opens an exhibition of ceramic murals depicting Arab heritage themes in art works by Iraqi artist Akram Naji modern techniques (Petra photo)

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

★ Film entitled "First Among Equals" (Part I) at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

CHOIR CONCERT

★ Choir concert at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

LECTURE

★ Lecture (in Arabic) entitled "The Arab Economy in the Peace Era" by Dr. Sami Maqdisi of Lebanon at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Salman Abbas at Alia Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition of abstract by several artists at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.

★ Exhibition of paintings by Ismail and Tamam Shamoun at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.

★ Exhibition of Muna Saudi's private collection of contemporary arts and Jordanian antiques at Abdoun Village.

★ Exhibition of paintings by Sadik Kwaish at the French Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition by Akram Naji Shaker at Abaad Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition of paintings by Dr. Ali Al Ghoul at the Italian Language Centre (Tel. 669348).

★ Exhibition by artists Latif Al Khateeb and Muhy Khaleefa at the Housing Bank Gallery.

Netanyahu visit

(Continued from page 1)

Earlier the King said that Jordan was following the situation in Gaza with concern and "our message is, as it has always been, and that is we hope that our brethren remain united and hope that they will manage to (overcome this obstacle) and there should be a change in the quality of life."

Commenting on the visit by Mr. Netanyahu, observers said that Jordan was keen on maintaining good relations with all the Israeli parties, especially that the Likud may

take over government in the next election.

According to an opinion poll released Tuesday in Israel, Mr. Netanyahu would edge out Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin if elections were held today.

The opposition leader would garner 44 per cent support compared to Mr. Rabin's 42 per cent, the Dabat Poll Institute found.

The next Israeli prime minister is due to be elected directly for the first time in general elections scheduled for November 1996.

The German Speaking Ladies

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

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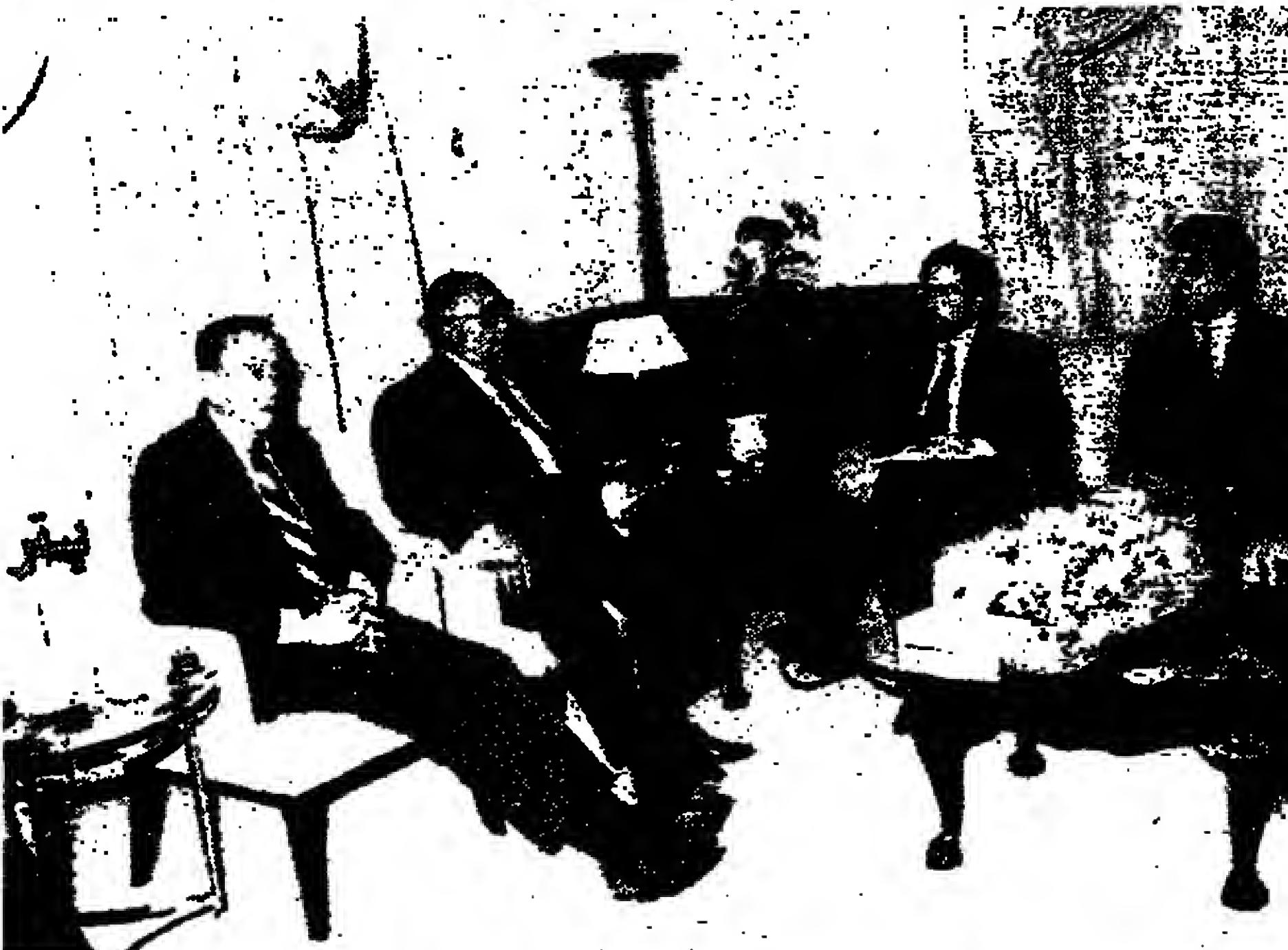
Entry fee 1 JD, Children free

peace and back efforts to restore political stability and security to the region.

The American visitors had earlier met Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) Chairman Hamdi Tabbaa and association members, who called on the United States to back Jordan's development process through increased American aid and further investments in the Kingdom.

Mr. Satloff told Mr. Tabbaa that Washington was fully behind the peace process and totally committed to ensuring its sustainability and helping Jordan attain its aspirations.

Association members demanded that the United States write off all Jordan's debts to Washington and that the American administration provide annual financial aid to the Kingdom to help Jordan overcome problems such as poverty and unemployment.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali reviews the Middle East peace process with a visiting delegation of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, headed by Robert Satloff (Petra photo)

Majali discusses peace process with visiting American Near East interest group

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1994 3

British firm to overhaul canal for JD 9.6m

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Water and Irrigation Tuesday awarded a JD 9.6 million contract to the British firm, George Wimpey, to conduct an overhaul of the King Abdullah Canal in the Jordan Valley starting early next year.

The contract, signed by Water and Irrigation Minister Saleh Isheidat, entails lining the canal, replacing parts of the old installations, improving the condition of roads leading to the canal and cleaning the canal siphons.

After completion of the project, expected in 30 months from the start of work, the canal's performance should improve by 10 per cent, and at least 24 million cubic metres of water, which currently is lost to underground leaking, is expected to be saved, according to Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Secretary General Hashem Shboul who was present at the signing ceremony.

Mr. Shboul said the project would be financed by

the Jordanian government and a loan from the European Investment Bank.

On Monday Mr. Shboul signed a JD 500,000 contract with a consultancy firm to supervise the implementation of the project and noted in a statement that the King Abdullah Canal irrigates more than 80 per cent of the farm lands in the Jordan Valley totalling 270,000 dunums.

He said the 30-year-old canal required extensive maintenance which is not available through the JVA, hence the contract for overhauling the entire canal.

The announcement followed Monday's signing of a contract between the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and an Italian firm to raise the walls of the Kafrein Dam seven metres in order to boost its storage capacity from 4.8 mcm to 7.1 mcm.

The water minister, who signed the deal, said in a statement that the contract

provides for the completion of

the project in 20 months. The project will be financed by the Jordanian Treasury and a loan from the European Investment Bank, added the minister.

The project also entails measures to stop the leakage of water from the reservoir, a study of the sediments accumulating at the bottom and means of reducing them, said the minister.

Since its construction in 1968, the Kafrein Dam's storage capacity has been on the decline and currently stands at 2.5 mcm, down from an original of 4.8 mcm as a result of residues at the reservoir's bottom, explained Mr. Isheidat.

The project aims at raising the dam's walls to a height of 37 metres, thus raising its rain water storage capacity for irrigation.

Nearly 75 per cent of the 16,000 dunums of farmlands near the Kafrein Dam depend on its waters for irrigation, especially during the summer.

House panel drafts statement to OIC summit conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The Foreign Affairs Committee at the Lower House of Parliament Tuesday met under its chairman, Deputy Abdul Karim Kabariti and discussed its work plans.

Mr. Kabariti said the committee has drawn the main features of its statement to the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) summit which will be held in Morocco next year, noting that he was entrusted with drafting the statement.

Mr. Kabariti said he voiced his support for presenting a proposal to the summit on launching an Islamic parliamentary dialogue to run on parallel lines with the official

dialogue among Islamic states to deal with attacks on Islam and to condemn violence and extremism threatening world stability.

In another development, the chairman and members of the Lower House Palestinian and the Occupied Arab Lands Committee Tuesday visited the Jerash government where they were received by Jerash Governor Abdul Ghani Abdullah who briefed them on services offered to the Jerash and Souf refugee camps.

The committee members visited the Jerash camp and were briefed by chairman of the camp's committee on improving public services, Hussein Abu Sousein, on the

camp's needs and problems. The committee also visited the Souf camp and was familiarised with the refugees' needs and demands.

Meanwhile, the Upper House Judiciary Committee Tuesday recommended that the House reject amendments to the 1994 laws on public administration and social organisations.

Committee Chairman Senator Jawdat Suboul said the committee, on the other hand, has recommended that the House approve two draft laws on court cases involving the government and Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national carrier, as they were passed by the Lower House.

Slovakian trade minister ends visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — Slovakian Minister of Economy and Trade Peter Mafvai Tuesday concluded a several day visit to Jordan by holding talks with the Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) Chairman Hamdi Tabbaa and association members on prospects of trade between the Slovak Republic and Jordan.

In outlining the JBA role in stimulating the Jordanian economy, Mr. Tabbaa said

that having a central geographical location, Jordan can play a key role in Middle East trade especially in the peace era and can promote its trade with countries in eastern as well as western Europe.

Mr. Mafvai spoke about his country's economic transformation into the free market economy, saying that 33,000 industrial firms have been converted into private sector concerns accounting

for 94 per cent of the total industry in the country.

Mr. Tabbaa called for the creation of a Jordanian-Slovakian business council to oversee promotion of trade exchanges and joint investment projects.

Mr. Mafvai, who officials and the business community and toured industrial centres over the past three days, left for home Tuesday.



KLM
ROYAL DUTCH AIRLINES

WELCOMES JORDAN'S
DISTINGUISHED
GUESTS

HER MAJESTY QUEEN BEATRIX OF THE
NETHERLANDS AND HIS ROYAL
HIGHNESS PRINCE CLAUS .
GUESTS OF
HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN

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Milan graft-buster resigns

MILAN, Italy (Agencies) — Leading anti-corruption magistrate Antonio Di Pietro, who has led Italy's almost three-year old "clean hands" investigation, announced his resignation Tuesday saying he was leaving the judiciary.

The prosecutor's office in the northern city did not say whether the resignation of the popular judge had been accepted.

"I am giving up as a magistrate with a heavy heart, and with no prospects for my future," Mr. Di Pietro said in a statement read by a RAI television journalist outside the Milan courthouse.

Reports that his resignation was imminent, because of accusations by supporters of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi

coni of bias in the anti-corruption drive, drove down the value of the lira Tuesday. The Mibet share index also fell 2.4 per cent following the announcement.

Mr. Di Pietro said he "felt used" in the conflict that had broken out between the judges and Mr. Berlusconi's right-wing coalition government.

The statement said he was quitting "to depersonalise the Mani Pulite (clean hands) investigation," referring to "distortions which fed conflict in the country."

Earlier Tuesday newspapers carried banner headlines saying that the man credited with doing more than any other to topple the country's graft-tainted political old

guard was considering leaving the "clean hands" (manipulite) team, wearied by continued clashes with the government.

"Di Pietro on the brink of resignation," ran the front page headline in the respected Milan daily *Corriere Della Sera*.

But the magistrate refused all comment.

He briskly waved away journalists who tried to approach him as he headed for the Milan court house where Italy's Enimont trial, the so-called mother of all corruption trials, was nearing its end.

"Leave me in peace," replied an angry Di Pietro. He is prosecuting in the case, involving millions of dollars of bribes allegedly paid out by the Ferruzzi group for political favours.

The head of the Milan team, Chief Prosecutor Francesco Saverio Borrelli, was equally tightlipped, sending his assistants to tell journalists to "wait and see."

Relations with the government of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, who is himself under investigation in a graft probe, have long been tense.

The centre-right government was forced into a humiliating about-turn in July, just two months after taking office, when Milan magistrates, including Mr. Di Pietro, threatened to resign over a proposed law that would have limited their powers to arrest graft suspects.

The prime minister has fiercely attacked the judicial probe into his business

empire, calling it politically-inspired.

Mr. Di Pietro's resignation had been intensifying as the graft inquiries have increasingly focused on the billionaire prime minister's Fininvest media empire.

Mr. Berlusconi, whose brother Paolo is already a defendant in two other graft trials, has been summoned by magistrates for questioning in connection with allegations that Fininvest bribed tax police in return for lenient audits of company books.

The prime minister has fiercely attacked the judicial probe into his business

Rumours had been ripe for days that Mr. Di Pietro wanted to leave the prosecuting team after three grueling years at the forefront of investigations into Italian corruption.

One of Mr. Berlusconi's television channels even interrupted its main news programme last Friday night to read out an "anonymous" tip that the hugely popular magistrate had written a letter of resignation.

But the talk surged afresh after the clean hands magistrates held a late-night meeting Monday at Milan's Palace of Justice.

The reports of a possible imminent resignation pushed share prices down on the Milan Bourse where investors were already on alert over signs of a deepening rift between Mr. Berlusconi and his government allies in the federalist Northern League.

Clashes between the government and the magistrates have intensified as the graft inquiries have increasingly focused on the billionaire prime minister's Fininvest media empire.

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World News



A Chechen soldier guards imprisoned Russian officers of the Kantemirovskaya Tank Division in Grozny. Around 70 Russian officers and soldiers who took part in the unsuccessful attack on

Grozny a week ago are still in Chechen prisons. Some of them have admitted that they were paid by the Russian Federal counterintelligence service to take part in the attack (AFP)

Chechen leader reportedly

GROZNY, Russia (R) — Prominent liberal Russian politician Grigory Yavlinsky arrived in the breakaway region of Chechenia Tuesday to offer himself as hostage in place of captured Russian soldiers.

His arrival came as Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev was quoted as saying he was ready to release all the Russian servicemen captured in fighting with Moscow-backed rebels.

A local reporter, contacted by telephone in the regional capital Grozny, quoted Mr. Dudayev as saying: "The Chechen Republic never used prisoners of war as tools of speculation. We still give them away and let them go."

No immediate confirmation of the report was available.

Mr. Yavlinsky told Reuters his first aim was to take the Russian soldiers back to Moscow.

"Secondly, we want to become a guarantee for Chechenia against the beginning of (Moscow's) military offensive and thirdly we want to solve the crisis by political

means," he added.

Tension between Moscow and Chechenia has been high since Nov. 29, when Russian President Boris Yeltsin threatened to impose a state of emergency on the mountainous area unless Mr. Dudayev and his opponents laid down their arms.

Mr. Yeltsin later retreated from that threat but Moscow is massing troops along the Chechen border.

A lone Russian Air Force Sukhoi SU-27 fighter-bomber buzzed Grozny Tuesday in a reminder to Mr. Dudayev's supporters that Moscow rules the air space above Chechenia.

At least nine people were killed last week in bombing raids which Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev reluctantly conceded were carried out by his forces.

Gen. Grachev met the head of the Moscow-backed opposition in Chechenia Tuesday as parliamentary deputies stepped up efforts to prevent bloodshed in the area.

Yevgeny Martynov, de-

puty head of a Moscow Information Centre set up to supply official information on the Chechen crisis, said Gen. Grachev met Umar Avtukhanov, who heads the Provisional Council opposition movement.

Mr. Avtukhanov said again he was willing to lay down his weapons and called for immediate free elections in the region. Mr. Martynov told a news conference.

But it is unlikely that Mr. Dudayev, who declared independence from Moscow in 1991, will follow suit.

Mr. Dudayev has agreed on talks with Moscow "on equal terms" but he rejects any negotiations with the Provisional Council, which Moscow recognises as the legitimate Chechen government.

Gen. Grachev told ITAR-TASS news agency Monday that Mr. Yeltsin's powerful Security Council would take a final decision on whether to use force at its next meeting Tuesday.

Deputies from the State Duma lower house of parliament have launched a number of initiatives to help de-

fuse the crisis and ensure the return of the Russian soldiers.

But TASS news agency quoted Chechen Foreign Minister Shamsedin Yusef as saying the hostage swap could not take place because Grozny did not consider the captured Russians hostage.

"We welcome the noble desire of Grigory Yavlinsky," Mr. Yusef said. "But we are not going to keep him or anyone else hostage, even if they want to."

Sergei Yushchenko, who heads the Defence Committee in the State Duma lower house of parliament, was on his second mission to Chechenia Tuesday. He visited Chechenia last week and returned with two prisoners.

A delegation dispatched to Chechenia by ultra-nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky returned to Moscow with two more prisoners.

Gen. Grachev flew to the North Caucasus mountain area Monday with Interior Minister Victor Yerin and Sergei Stepanashin, head of the counter-intelligence service, in what he said was a bid to bring the warring sides to the negotiating table.

If this attempt failed, he did "not rule out the declaration of a special form of government in Chechenia."

Russia's Federation Council upper house of parliament Tuesday opened a session on Chechenia by voting to summon Gen. Grachev, Mr. Yerin and Mr. Stepanashin to report on the situation.

Bangladesh premier is given three weeks to meet opposition demands

DHAKA (AFP) — The Bangladeshi opposition Tuesday gave Prime Minister Khaleda Zia three weeks to accept demands for elections under a neutral caretaker government, or face a parliamentary walkout by all opposition MPs.

"We are giving the government an ultimatum to accept our demand by Dec. 27, otherwise the opposition will resign en masse on Dec. 28," the main opposition leader, Sheikh Hasina Wajed, announced at a rally marking the country's fourth Demo-

cracy Day.

Ms. Wajed's Awami League, the Muslim fundamentalist Jamaat-E-Islami and the Jatiya Party have already been boycotting parliament for the past nine months to push demands for fresh elections.

Ms. Wajed also announced a new programme of anti-government protests until the end of December, but relaxed plans for a 48-hour strike starting Wednesday.

Analysts said that if the opposition resigned from the 330-member national parlia-

ment, elected in 1991, the government could either hold by-elections or call for fresh polls early next year.

The opposition has refused to take part in elections under this government, saying any ballot is bound to be rigged.

Ms. Wajed's ultimatum comes after months of agitation by opposition groups that has often flared into violence, and failed attempt by the Commonwealth to mediate an end to Bangladesh's chronic political crisis.

Sri Lanka offers ceasefire to rebels

COLOMBO (AFP) — The Sri Lankan government Tuesday decided to offer a ceasefire to separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas in a bid to revive stalled peace talks ahead of a visit here by Pope John Paul II, defence sources said.

Sri Lanka's Security Council, headed by President Chandrika Kumaratunga, agreed to declare a truce with the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) as soon as possible, the sources said.

"An announcement of a ceasefire could be made within a few days. The timing depends on how soon the government gets a response from the LTTE," a defence source who attended the meeting told AFP.

The government will communicate its decision immediately to the LTTE, probably through the International Committee of the Red Cross, the sources said, adding that Mrs. Kumaratunga was keen to revive the peace process.

Colombo also decided to offer more concessions to Tamils living in the LTTE-held northern Jaffna peninsula and also open a land route to the embattled region through a strategic military base, the source said.

Indian Muslims call for mosque to be rebuilt

NEW DELHI (AFP) — A former Indian prime minister Tuesday demanded the reconstruction of a 16th-century mosque razed by Hindu militants two years ago as Muslims closed businesses in parts of the country to protest the desecration.

Indian authorities deployed thousands of police and paramilitary forces across the country to preempt Hindu-Muslim clashes. news reports said, but there was virtually no violence.

Former Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh told a rally here that it was the moral responsibility of the Congress (I) government to rebuild the Babri Mosque in the northern town of Ayodhya.

Mr. Singh said Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao had promised to rebuild the Moghul-built mosque and "his words should be given concrete shape."

The desecration was con-

demned by Mr. Rao on Dec. 7, 1992 and he promised — in a National Day address eight months later — to rebuild the mosque, opposition leaders charged in a memorandum.

Mr. Singh's call was echoed by Sayed Ahmad Bukhari, chief cleric of New Delhi's Jama Masjid, India's biggest mosque, who threatened to demand Mr. Rao's resignation at another rally in the Indian capital.

Mr. Bukhari and several other Muslim politicians gave Mr. Rao a year to honour his pledge, saying they would press for his ouster if he failed.

"Rao should either fulfil his promise or quit," he said. "The battle is not between Hindus and Muslims, but against the Rao government."

Muslims number more than 120 million in India and are its largest minority.

Meanwhile, some 3,000 Hindus went on a noisy march to Ayodhya, where

the mosque was razed by thousands of Hindu extremists on Dec. 6, 1992, sparking nationwide Hindu-Muslim clashes.

The Hindus claimed the mosque was built on the birthplace of their warrior god, Rama, and raised a makeshift temple dedicated to him on the rubble.

Groups of Muslims Tuesday held protest meetings and demonstrations in New Delhi, Bombay, the twin towns of Faizabad and Ayodhya and in the southern state of Kerala.

"Muslims hope and pray that the mosque will be rebuilt," said Mohammad Wasi Khan, a Muslim leader in Faizabad town, 525 kilometres (328 miles) east of New Delhi.

Some 4,000 police and paramilitary forces were deployed in Faizabad and Ayodhya as Muslims closed shops and businesses in response to a strike call.

Bosnian Serbs take U.N. observers as 'human shields'

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serbs, talking and acting tougher than ever, held five U.N. observers as "human shields" to protect a Serb-held airport and demanded that NATO swear off any further strikes on Serb forces as a condition for allowing Sarajevo Airport to reopen, a U.N. spokesman said.

The moves came amid Western disarray over how to proceed in Bosnia-Herzegovina after fruitless efforts to end more than two years of warfare. The U.N. Protection Force is also facing unprecedented harassment on the ground in Bosnia.

The five U.N. military observers were being used as "human shields" by Serbs near the airport of their stronghold of Banja Luka in northern Bosnia, U.N. spokesman Paul Risley in Zagreb said.

The situation recalled the Gulf War when Iraqi President Saddam Hussein took Western hostages to deter allied air strikes on strategic installations.

The military observers included a Jordanian with heart problems.

The spokesman said UNPROFOR condemned "in the strongest terms the inhuman treatment of a sick

observer," and "protested today at the highest level in Pale to obtain their immediate release."

A U.N. source meanwhile said Tuesday the Bosnian Serbs had demanded an official undertaking from NATO not to strike Serb forces or missile sites in return for allowing the reopening of Sarajevo Airport, which has been closed for more than two weeks.

They also demanded that the NATO planes over Bosnia should not fly below 5,000 feet.

The U.N. source said the demands were put at a meeting Monday between Serb Deputy Army Commander General Milan Gvero and the chief of U.N. forces in Bosnia, General Michael Rose, in Jahorina, south of the capital.

He said Serb military officials had pledged to release the more than 300 U.N. personnel they were detaining.

Pale Radio reported that Gen. Gvero had demanded guarantees from the highest U.N. levels that NATO planes would not act over Serb territory on strategic installations.

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The military observers included a Jordanian with heart problems.

The spokesman said UNPROFOR condemned "in the strongest terms the inhuman treatment of a sick

little provocative," but said that he had to clarify his position, arguing that he was not for increased centralisation of power in Europe.

"The federal approach is one which guarantees the least centralisation of powers, and the greatest democratic control," he said, stressing that "federation is synonymous with abandoning sovereignty."

The French right was not alone in condemning Mr. Delors' comments, which came amid frantic speculation over whether he will stand in the French presidential ballot.

Recent opinion polls have put him ahead of the likely rightwing candidate Mr. Balladur and Mr. Chirac.

Asked in Budapest, where he was attending the summit of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), whether he had taken his decision, he replied "yes."

He has said twice in recent weeks that, if his decision not to stand, he will announce it before Christmas, in order for the French to rally round an alternative candidate.

Mr. Delors' federalism comments in much the same way as the rightwing Maziad.

Mr. Hue told French radio that federalism "calls into question our national sovereignty," and said Mr. Delors' views "seems to me to

Delors sparks new storm over EU federalism

PARIS (AFP) — Outgoing European Commission head Jacques Delors sparked a fresh storm over European federalism Tuesday, with critics renewing charges that he is putting EU power ahead of national interests, including French ones.

A delegation dispatched to Chechenia by ultra-nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky returned to Moscow with two more prisoners.

Gen. Grachev flew to the North Caucasus mountain area Monday with Interior Minister Victor Yerin and Sergei Stepanashin, head of the counter-intelligence service, in what he said was a bid to bring the warring sides to the negotiating table.

If this attempt failed, he did "not rule out the declaration of a special form of government in Chechenia."

Russia's Federation Council upper house of parliament Tuesday opened a session on Chechenia by voting to summon Gen. Grachev, Mr. Yerin and Mr. Stepanashin to report on the situation.

Edouard Balladur.

Mr. Delors made his controversial comments, which echoed views expressed in the German magazine Der Spiegel last week, in an interview with the French financial daily Les Echos.

In particular he outlined his vision of a future "Federation of European States" which would include some 30 member states, saying the only alternative was declining European influence in the world.

"Either we will form into a grouping...with no political links, and we will no longer be able to maintain our place on the world stage," he said, calling such an eventual "Outer Space Europe."

"Or, for those countries which want to go further, there will be another organisation, the Federation of European States...which will keep Europe's ambitions in the world intact."

Mr. Delors conceded that the word "federation" was "a

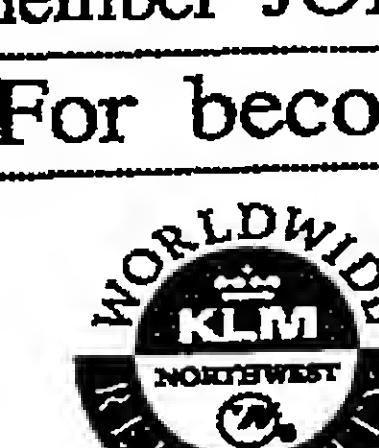
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Challenge before the bench

THE CRUX of the problem facing the judicial branch of government these days centres on the performance of the higher judicial council in past years and the extent of its independence from the executive branch. This council happens to occupy centre stage in the entire judicial functioning of the country since it, and it alone, has the mandate to appoint, promote and retire judges. It goes without saying that the independence and integrity of the judiciary in any given government is one of the most enshrined and religiously defended pillars of modern statehood. The Jordanian Constitution, like practically all constitutions worldwide, stipulates in the clearest terms that the judicial function of government shall be independent and free of any whims or dictates by other executive or legislative estates. As a matter of fact, Jordan has always prided itself in observing the law through a truly independent court system thanks to a highly responsible judicial council composed of ten high-ranking judges and officials and headed by the president of the Court of Cassation. The record of this council has been impeccable throughout the years with nothing really to blemish its reputation or integrity.

The problem that occurred of late within and about the judiciary was offset by a series of resignations and retirements among the most senior members of the court system, including some who were key members of the judicial council itself. That naturally gave rise to speculation about the independence of the council, especially when the former president of the council, Court of Cassation Chief Justice Ali Al Na'ssan, submitted his resignation, and his retirement from office was followed by other resignations from the Court of Cassation's bench. A closer look, however, might not reveal any irregularities since the decisions in question were taken by the council itself. Most of the judges involved were entitled to retirement any way for one reason or another.

The controversy remains because of the composition of the council and the built-in ability of the executive to pull some strings through members who are either directly associated with the Ministry of Justice, such as the secretary general of the ministry, or because of the prerogatives of the minister of justice himself to second judges of his choosing to fill vacancies for ad hoc members of the highly powerful council. The odd thing about the existing practice within the judicial council is the ability even of its most junior members to put on its agenda a variety of issues including the retirement of the president of the council himself. Adding insult to injury is the automatic exclusion of any member of the council, including its president, from the deliberations when his retirement is put on the agenda.

This is where the problem lies and where rectifying measures need to be introduced. In the final analysis, the judicial council's independence needs to be further enhanced and consolidated to prevent any encroachment on it by any direct or indirect means. This could be attained by further streamlining the council's membership and reducing it to the seven most senior and functioning judges enjoying lifetime tenure and the exclusion, at the same time, of any official associated with the executive from its membership.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Tuesday backed Egypt's drive to ensure that Israel complies with U.N. resolutions and respect international laws by ending its nuclear programme. Mahmoud Rimawi said that Egypt, which reached a peace treaty with Israel at Camp David, has the right to demand that Tel Aviv take measures designed to ensure the sustainability of peace and security with its neighbours. Likewise, Damascus is right to demand a full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Heights in return for a complete peace with the Jewish state, said the writer. Syria does not want to usurp other parties' rights, but it is rather holding on to its own right and its own lands usurped by Israel in 1967, he noted. There can be no justification for Israel to continue its occupation of other countries' lands in defiance of U.N. resolutions or to defy the international laws concerning mass destruction weapons, he stressed. The writer said that Israel should not be given a reward for its aggression and has to give up the occupied Arab land in exchange for a lasting peace with the Arabs.

MOHAMMAD SUBEIHI, a writer in Al Dustour, expressed belief that the government, which has successfully concluded a peace treaty with Israel, is now facing a number of chronic issues that require drastic solutions. Among these issues, said the writer, is the continual confrontation between government and Parliament, which has caused the delay of progress in implementing laws related to domestic affairs. Some deputies have personal ambitions and others hold on to ideologies that conflict with the government's own policy and the government has to tread very carefully lest it should anger the House members to an extent that they give a no confidence vote in the government, said the writer. Furthermore, the peace treaty with Israel, which was hoped to open the door for improved relations with the Arab states, has not achieved the aspired purpose, added the writer. All these issues are facing the government at a time when nothing has been successfully done to deal with the socio-economic ills that require immediate attention, said Subeihi. He said perhaps the new stage requires a new government and a stronger Parliament where all groups are represented.

WASHINGTON WATCH

By Dr. James Zogby

American Jews, Republicans and Middle East peace

WHEN ASSESSING the role of the American Jewish community will play in lobbying the next Congress, surface numbers can be misleading. The contributions of pro-Israel political actions committees (PACs), for example, are way down. From a high in 1988 of \$4.6 million, the total contributions have fallen to \$1.2 million this year. The number of Jewish members of Congress drop this year from 10 senators and 32 congressmen in the last Congress to 9 senators and 32 congressmen in the next.

And while the liberal social agenda shared by most American Jews is threatened in the hands of the new conservative-led Congress, the new Congress will also be more stridently pro-Israel (if that can be believed) than in the past. It is in this context that the Jewish community is actively debating the effects of the 1994 congressional elections on their ability to pursue their agenda in 1995-96.

Historically, the overwhelming majority of the Jewish community has voted for Democrats, and this past election was no exception. While the national vote was split evenly (50 per cent to 50 per cent) between the Democratic and Republican parties (due to the fact that several Democratic incumbents won by large margins, while many Republican victors won by narrow margins), the Jewish vote on the other hand went 78 per cent for the Democrats.

The American Jewish community has been aligned with the Democratic Party largely because of the party's social agenda: social liberalism, a commitment to civil rights, feminism, abortion rights, a redistributive tax policy and the separation of church and state — all major domestic concerns of the Jewish community. Many American Jewish leaders are now worried that progress already achieved on these issues may be rolled back and new progress made impossible by the more conservative leadership recently elected to Congress.

Indeed, the early initiative calling for a constitutional amendment supporting prayer in the U.S. public school system has caused great concern among liberal Jews (and many liberal Protestant Christian denominations, as well). They fear that such an amendment would erode the state religion and the state which small religious minorities see as an important protection of their rights.

But while liberal Jews have historically led the community, there is a vocal and increasingly active minority of conservative Orthodox Jews who have become organised against this liberal agenda — and are now voting Republican and creating a deep fissure within the American Jewish community.

In the past, both the dominant liberal and minority conservative wings of the Jewish community were at least united on issues of foreign policy; but now, in the face of a Labour government in Israel that has made some peace with the Palestinians, there is even a rift on that question.

The more liberal Jewish leadership maintains that they have no problem with the Republican sweep of the November elections. They note a history of strong bipartisan support for Israel and its policies, and make brave public comments to that effect. An AIPAC leader recently noted, "these guys are all friends of Israel." But in private, these same liberal Jewish leaders express a fear that the newly elevated conservative Republican leadership in Washington and their conservative supporters in the Jewish community do not share their support for the Labour government of Israel or for the basic tenets of the peace process itself.

The Democrats who ruled Congress for 40 years consistently supported Israel, that is, whatever Israeli government was in power. At times, Congress would pursue the Israeli government's agenda even when it directly challenged the policy of U.S. administration. Congress would take these actions at the behest of the powerful pro-Israel lobby which either supported their election campaigns or

threatened to work against their reelections.

More often than not, the scene on Washington was one of Congress pushing and the administration seeking to restrain excessive congressional action — on Jerusalem or restricting arms sales to Arab countries, or on denying aid to Arab countries — with successive administrations feeling quite threatened by this congressional pressure. It is this interplay that has often shaped the Middle East policy debate in the United States.

With the Republican takeover, this dynamic will be somewhat altered. There will not only be new player in leadership roles, but these new leaders in the House and Senate are driven by ideologies which are more stridently pro-Israel than their predecessors, though not necessarily elected to the United States.

Some pro-Israel lobbyists (both liberal and conservative) are celebrating the diminished roles of some of Israel's Democratic names in Congress. No longer will Israeli policy be questioned by such Democratic committee chairman as Congressman Lee Hamilton (outgoing chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee), congressman David Obey (outgoing chairman of the House Appropriations Committee), Senator Patrick Leahy (outgoing chairman of the Senate Foreign Operations Subcommittee), and House Majority Whip David Bonior. All these Democrats were strongly opposed to Israeli settlement policies and, while not supported by the majority of their own party, they were frequently able to act as a thorn in Israel's side.

Replacing this Democratic leadership will be congressman Newt Gingrich (the new speaker for the House who only last month cosponsored a letter to President Clinton that opposed administration actions which — in accordance with the Israel-PLO declaration of principles — have treated the status of Jerusalem as undetermined and argued instead that all of Jerusalem should remain solely under Israeli sovereignty), Senator Mitch McConnell (incoming chairman of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee who is also one of the largest recipients of pro-Israel PAC funds and holder of one of the most pro-Israel voting records in the Senate), Senator Arlen Specter (incoming chairman of the Technology and the Law Subcommittee and founder of the anti-peace process "monitoring committee" in the Senate), Senator Robert Packwood (incoming chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the most pro-Israel member of either House or Congress) and Senator Jesse Helms (incoming chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee).

The two most central forces driving the Middle East policy debate in the Republican Party today are the neoconservatives and Christian right wing. Both of these groups, while strongly allied to former President Reagan, were opponents of President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker. These two forces, for different reasons, have a narrow Israel-centred view of the Middle East and are more strongly allied with the position of the Likud than with that of the Labour Party of Prime Minister Rabin.

As a group, they exert real pressure on the White House on a number of Middle East-related issues — and not only because they are Republicans who will be able to obstruct the foreign policy of a Democratic president, but also because they are not committed to supporting the Labour government of Israel.

Senator Helms, for example, while questioning foreign aid in general (he likened it to pouring money down "foreign ratholes") had the following to say to Itamar Rabinovich, the Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. in a meeting just two weeks ago:

"If Israel hadn't existed in the Middle East it would have had to be invented, because the United States could have found itself in sad shape. Anyone who wants to understand

Israel's importance to the United States needs to figure out how much the defence of the region would have rested in the Pentagon's budget without it."

In the Gingrich letter to the president, Jerusalem was described in the following way:

"Jerusalem is Israel's capital — and only Israel's capital — and that it must remain a united city under Israeli sovereignty... we support the action taken by the U.S. Congress to prohibit any new offices or official meetings in Jerusalem to deal with the Palestinian Authority. Jerusalem is the capital of only one country, Israel, and we urge you to implement a policy that does not in any way support a Palestinian claim to the city."

And Senator Specter's Peace Accords' Monitoring Committee (PAM), whose creation was opposed by the Rabin government, succeeded in conditioning U.S. aid to the Palestinians and passing other legislation that attempts to tie the hands of the administration with regard to Palestinians and to deal with Palestinians in the city of Jerusalem.

Not only are the Democrats down on the Hill, but the more traditional pro-Israel lobby American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) may also be negatively affected by the fall elections.

AIPAC has always played by the rules traditionally accepted by the mainstream of the American Jewish community — they support whatever Israeli government is in office. Since the start of the peace process, AIPAC has been challenged by an upstart group, the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) which, in violation of the above-mentioned rule, has severely criticised the Labour government policies and pushed its allies in Congress to criticise or encumber the peace process with negative legislation.

While AIPAC has stated that they are confident that they can work with the new Congress, most analysts of the American Jewish community feel that the ZOA's star is rising on Capitol Hill.

Already ZOA President Mort Klein has expressed his strong support for Senator Jesse Helms. Mr. Helms has joined the ZOA-sponsored PAM committee which the outgoing chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Democratic Senator Claiborne Pell, refused to join, and he is extremely pleased that two of his strongest allies Senators Specter and Shelby (a former Democrat who recently switched to the Republican Party) will be a strong position to carry out his group's agenda.

In short, the final assessment of the impact of the Republican takeover on the Jewish community is mixed:

— The liberal Jewish social agenda will be threatened;

— The liberal-conservative split within the American Jewish community will deepen;

— The newly organised (and even radicalised) Orthodox Jewish community will become a force with which others will be forced to contend in U.S. politics;

— American Jews will no longer be regarded as monolithically liberal Democrats;

— Pro-Israel PAC money and individual contributions to candidates, while still an important factor in elections, will not play as powerful a role as it has in the past.

With neo-conservatives and Christian fundamentalist ideology is a more significant factor in their pro-Israel stance;

— The peace process, as it is presently constructed, will face real challenges because the next Congress will not be inclined to give either the Democratic president or the Labour government of Israel an opportunity for a new ceremony on the White House lawn before 1996. Progress may still be made, but it will not be easy.

The results of the elections pose new difficulties to an already encumbered peace process.

The pan-Arab project — where to?

By Jamal Shaer

If a European were asked a 100 years ago about his predictions on the future of the continent it is highly unlikely that he would have foreseen a unified Europe. But if one asked a Frenchman, British or German the same question 10 years ago, most probably the answer would have been forecasting a situation familiar to the one witnessed today.

This corresponds entirely to the situation in the Arab World. Most probably it never occurred to the mind of the pan-Arabist living towards the end of the last century that the Arab World would go the way it has. But if an Egyptian, Moroccan, Syrian, Gulf Arab, Iraqi, Palestinian or Jordanian national were asked 10 years ago about the direction the Arab World would take, the prediction would not have been far from what is happening now.

But what about the future? What is going to happen, in the next 10 years say, to the Arab World or to what has come to be called the pan-Arab national project?

What is this project in the first place?

What is it based on?

What are its elements?

What are the possibilities of achieving at least some of its objectives?

In the last book written by the late (historian and writer) Albert Hourani about the history of the Arabs, which was more of an analysis and conclusions than a narrative, and which was the product of more than 50 years of studies and teaching history at the best American universities and participation in Arab and international seminars. Hourani concluded that: "Arabism was always a culture and social identity that could not express itself politically throughout history and will, not most probably, do so in the future."

The question also arises about the relationship between the pan-Arab project and Islam as an identity and a governing theory. No doubt, most, if not all, of us have heard of the Arab Nahda (renaissance) project, which had as targets unity, social justice, independence from the occupier, democracy, development and progress. At the same time, we must have heard of the Islamic renaissance project which aimed

to start within the borders of the Arab World. Now the talk is about a new Middle East regional project, which would include not only Turkey, and possibly Iran, but also Israel.

What are the mechanisms to achieve the pan-Arab project? And what are the obstacles facing it, especially today, after the Gulf war and reconciliation with Israel and the steps leading to the settlement of the Palestinian question which has been the main focus of the pan-Arab project since the middle of the 1990s?

Let us attempt to list the powers and features that will positively or negatively govern the pan-Arab project during the coming 10 years. We think that these are represented by:

Arab regimes; resources and prospects for integration; international powers;

and intellectual factors availability of institutions;

International intellectual trends.

Arab regimes, resources and prospects for integration

Astonishing facts were published recently about the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Its expenditure in the Gulf war totalled \$55 billion and it will have to pay the bills for the forces and arms rushed to it after the Iraqi build-up on the Kuwaiti border (in 1990).

Saudi Arabia has used all its resources, and its debts are estimated at \$100 billion; its annual deficit is \$20 billion. Still it has recently concluded a \$30 billion arms deal with the West.

All this has prompted the American treasury secretary to come to Saudi Arabia with a scathing report calling on the state to control its expenditures to be able to shoulder its responsibilities. To make the situation and the American position look better, they talked of human rights and the need to take steps on the way to openness.

All this aims to protect the royal family and the interests of the U.S. in Saudi Arabia and around it. If we compare this to the rest of the Gulf region, we will find similar situations. The regimes of Iraq, Syria, Libya and Algeria, which have different capabilities, ranging from medium to large, did not have better achievements during the past two decades. These all are dictatorships whose main purpose is to protect the ruler from his people. From the other Arab ruler, be he traditional or revolutionary, and from international powers.

It is true that Mohammad Ali Pasha's power failed because of the international forces and it is also true that these forces were behind the failure of the Syrian-Egyptian unity, but a true leadership is one that benefits from the lessons of history, knows how to make external factors work for it and at the same time does not disregard the internal factors that are often inherent in the leadership itself, in addition to other objective factors.

Social and intellectual factors

When we say social forces, it is very important to view them as they are not as we wish them to be. If we take the Jordanian arena for example, we find that the tribe constitutes a social power that cannot be underestimated

in any matter. So is the religious belief. Other than these two basic factors, we can list labourers, economists, professionals, civil servants, civilians, the military, and so on.

No doubt, there is an interest relationship between these forces as those holding on to tribal values might also be guided by religion, and thus listen to their companions in prayers, or might be army personnel, labourers, professionals or businessmen.

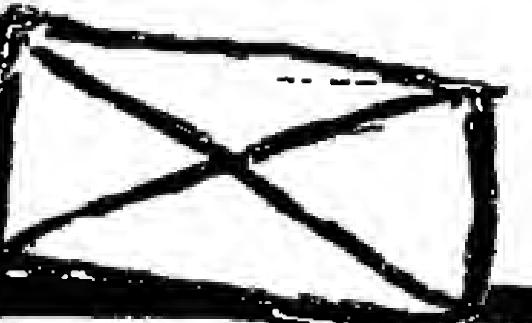
If we examine what happened in our arena over the past five years, and take for example the parliamentary elections, amendments to the election law, the position on the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and other major issues, we can detect the importance of social forces.

Many of the field studies conducted recently concluded that the trends of registered voters were divided as following: The traditionally organised political parties enjoy the support of nine per cent of the voters, religious forces enjoy the support of 5.5 per cent and all the modernist powers are supported by 2 per cent. This demonstrates the weak influence of the political and intellectual trends and shows that the strongest remain the tradition and the religious strength.

That is not mean that the Arabs surrender to this imposed fact. We have a great example in our history, in Prophet Mohammad, peace be upon him, who managed to unify the Arab land and nation and to defeat the Romans and Persians...

<p

Middle East News



JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1994

Israeli army wants more than 10% of West Bank

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli army wants to maintain control of four zones on the West Bank even after a permanent settlement with the Palestinians, military radio reported Tuesday.

The zones, which do not include annexed East Jerusalem, are the minimum the army believes necessary to provide security.

Eighty per cent of the 120,000 Jewish settlers live within the zones which the radio identified as:

— a belt along the Jordan Valley;

— an area around the settlement of Maale Adumim,

just east of Jerusalem, — the Gush Etzion block of settlements south of Bethlehem,

— a block of settlements including Karmei Shomron and Ariel, northeast of Tel Aviv.

They would take in between 11 and 20 per cent of the 4,400 square kilometres of the West Bank, according to how much land was included in the Jordan Valley enclave.

The plan is for the final status of the occupied territories after the five-year interim period of autonomy which began in the Gaza

Strip and West Bank town of Jericho last May.

During the interim stage the army wants to hold on to a far greater area of the West Bank.

Israel and the PLO were set to begin negotiations on the next stage of autonomy later Tuesday in Cairo.

Under the autonomy agreement, Israeli troops are to pull out of built-up Palestinian areas of the West Bank to allow for elections, but the army fears exposing settlers.

Negotiations on the final settlement are scheduled to start by May 1996.

Christopher's tour is decisive — Syrian media

DAMASCUS (AFP) — As U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher began a new shuttle between Syria and Israel Tuesday the official press here spoke of a "decisive juncture" in the troubled peace talks.

The English-language Syria Times described Christopher's visit as the "most important" this year but echoed other official dailies here saying Syria would not back down on its commitment for a comprehensive settlement.

The Syrian-Israeli peace talks have been deadlocked since February over the terms and extent of an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights which were conquered in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

In the run-up to Mr. Christopher's tour Israel and Syria blamed each other for the stalemate, with President Hafez Al Assad insisting it was up to Israel to make the next move.

"The aim is to add momentum to the deadlocked negotiations between Syria and Israel," Syria Times said.

"The result, although unpredictable, is almost obvious: no immediate breakthrough on the Syrian-Israeli track as long as Israel holds fast to its already non-conciliatory positions," the

newspaper added.

"The U.S. has been actively engaged in this area for years. Now the process has reached a decisive juncture," Syria Times said.

Another official daily, Tishrin, squarely put the blame on Israel for the deadlocked talks accusing Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of refusing Syria's "key condition" for peace — a Golan and South Lebanon withdrawal.

Peace will remain a "project on paper" as long as Israel failed to abide by U.N. Security Council resolutions 242, 338 for a withdrawal from Arab land occupied in the 1967 war and 425 which demanded an immediate and unconditional pullout from South Lebanon, Tishrin said.

Mr. Christopher was to meet Assad before flying to Israel later Tuesday. He returns here on Thursday.

Meanwhile, an opinion poll in Israel showed that 60 per cent of those questioned opposed a full withdrawal from the heights while just over 23 per cent backed a total pullout.

It also showed that nearly seven out of 10 Israelis were against the stationing of U.S. troops on the Golan Heights to monitor any peace agreement.

U.N. plans to step up aid convoys to Kabul

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — The U.N. plans to step up aid convoys to the beleaguered Afghan capital after the success of getting its first relief consignment through in six months. U.N. sources said here Tuesday.

U.N. convoys had been suspended, unlike those of other aid agencies, because of the blockade to the east and south of Kabul by forces of former prime minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

A four-day ceasefire, agreed by the main Afghan factions, was to be implemented on Monday to allow the U.N. convoy to get through. It was also to let U.N. special envoy Sotirios Mousouris visit Kabul.

The 32-lorry convoy carried flour, medical and food supplies and tents. It left Jalalabad, eastern Afghanistan, Monday morning and arrived in the centre of the capital where President Burhanuddin Rabbani is in control by mid-afternoon.

About half its consignment was immediately distributed. The other half will be distributed in areas controlled by Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami, U.N. sources said.

Roads in Afghanistan have been unsafe since the fall of the communist regime in April 1992 and the subsequent war between rival Afghan Mujahideen factions.

The main road between Kabul and Jalalabad towards the Pakistan border has been particularly dangerous. Several aid convoys have been looted and vehicles

stolen by armed gangs.

Other humanitarian organisations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, have continued to provide aid for Kabul's 800,000 inhabitants either by road or by air through the Bagram airport north of the Afghan capital.

Unlike the United Nations, which evacuated all expatriate personnel from Kabul on Jan. 8 when fighting between rival Afghan factions heightened, the ICRC has always maintained a significant expatriate presence.

U.N. officials said that following Monday's successful trip, other convoys to Kabul could now follow if security considerations permitted.

The convoy's arrival in Kabul coincides with the pending departure of Sotirios Mousouris from his post as the U.N. secretary-general's representative for humanitarian aid in Afghanistan.

He was scheduled to leave Islamabad for Kabul Tuesday to say goodbye to the leaders of the main Afghan factions.

Since Jan. 1 this year the war between factions fighting for control of Kabul has left more than 7,000 people dead and created hundreds of thousands of refugees, including 350,000 in U.N.-run camps near Jalalabad.

In addition to its humanitarian activity, the United Nations has also undertaken a political initiative to try to bring peace to Afghanistan. Former Tunisian foreign minister Mohamed Mestiri is handling the mission which so far has failed to progress.

King accepts Hindawi's resignation

(Continued from page 1)

planning minister told the Cabinet that he had instructed the ministry's staff to draw up plans for specific projects that will enable Jordan to ask for aid from Europe. The minister explained that the step was necessary since Jordan could no longer expect direct government-to-government financial aid but rather to finance specific projects.

Mr. Hindawi was not available yesterday to explain his position, but, according to

different sources, he felt that the clear implications of the minister's words were that the government was not really sure that financial aid to Jordan was guaranteed after its signing of the peace treaty with Israel.

Parliamentary critics of Mr. Hindawi dismissed his objection as a pretext to justify his "pre-planned" resignation. The critics suggest that Mr. Hindawi employed what he saw as the government's "inability to fulfil

promises it made to the Jordanian people" to step up his "power struggle" with Dr. Majali.

Sympathisers with Mr. Hindawi, on the other hand, say he was expressing real concern that the government had been unnecessarily raising high expectations among Jordanians about post-peace prosperity.

Another colleague of Mr. Hindawi, minister of education Dr. Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh, is said to have also expressed his disappointment after hearing the minis-



Islamic militant Mohammad Mawad on Tuesday shows bruises which he claims come from brutal treatment in a jail at the military court in Cairo. Mohammad Nagui (centre) is charged with the knife attack on Egyptian author Naguib Mahfouz outside his home last Oct. 14. 16 Islamic militants are to be tried for their alleged involvement in the attempted murder of Egypt's best-known author (AFP photo)

U.S. 'deeply concerned' over trial of Turkish MPs

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department repeatedly has expressed its "deep concern" to Ankara over the trial of eight Kurdish members of the Turkish parliament, a spokeswoman said Monday.

The eight, who are accused of advocating Kurdish independence and maintaining ties to an outlawed separatist party, may be sentenced to death if found guilty by Turkey's state security court, spokeswoman Christine Shelley said.

"It's difficult for most foreign observers to understand how (parliamentary deputies) could be stripped of their immunity and put on trial for expressing their thoughts, including in some instances, thoughts expressed before the Helsinki commission of

the U.S. Congress," Ms. Shelley said.

"We have repeatedly expressed to the Turkish government our deep concern over the trials and their implications for democracy and freedom of expression in Turkey," she said at Monday's State Department briefing.

She said the State Department was continuing to press the issue with Ankara through diplomatic channels.

The court is expected to hand down its verdict on Thursday.

Turkey has been battling a bloody Kurdish insurgency in its eastern provinces for the past decade. Kurdish activists claim the Turkish army has razed 1,400 villages in its effort to stamp out the uprising, displacing some two million people.

Ankara has come under increasing pressure recently from the United States and Western Europe to improve its human rights record, which suffered greatly during the army's crackdown on the guerrillas.

In an impassioned letter published by The Washington Post Monday, Leyla Zana, one of the accused deputies, called on the West to intervene in the conflict.

The court is expected to hand down its verdict on Thursday.

Turkey has been battling a bloody Kurdish insurgency in its eastern provinces for the past decade. Kurdish activists claim the Turkish army has razed 1,400 villages in its effort to stamp out the uprising, displacing some two million people.

"If Turkey's warlords assassinate hopes for the peaceful solution that we legislators represent, the road is open for Kurds to switch massively to the camp of violence and Islamic fundamentalism," she wrote.

Ethics in government:

'Corruption bankrupts nations'

By Cathy King
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Corruption burdens economies, lessens a country's competitiveness in the international market and deprives its people of the benefits of external investment and the fruits of a free market economy, experts from different countries agreed Tuesday.

The experts, from Jordan, Lebanon, Sri Lanka and Pakistan, were participating in a WorldNet dialogue in English to discuss ethics in government and business via satellite television with Director of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics Stephen Potts and corporation ombudsman of Pitney Bowes Inc. David Nassef who spoke from a Washington studio.

Meanwhile, a Roman Catholic bishop has charged in comments published on Monday that four Arab Christians were whipped and crucified by security forces for refusing to reconvert to Islam.

In an interview with Vatican radio, Bishop Cesare Mazzolari, the Vatican's chief representative in the Sudanese city of Rumbek, also said Roman Catholics were being persecuted in a conflict that has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives.

"We have made diplomatic efforts to sort out the misunderstanding created by the Sudanese government in a bid to salvage relations from further deterioration," the radio quoted the foreign ministry as saying.

"While all these efforts have been made and all diplomatic alternatives have been tried and have failed... the Sudanese government has continued to engage in negative activities which have affected our people and country."

The experts, from Jordan, Lebanon, Sri Lanka and Pakistan, were participating in a WorldNet dialogue in English to discuss ethics in government and business via satellite television with Director of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics Stephen Potts and corporation ombudsman of Pitney Bowes Inc. David Nassef who spoke from a Washington studio.

"Cultural divides mean that there cannot be one set of laws to ensure governments and businesses are corruption free... but as all cultures recognise the importance of honesty, it is possible to establish common values," said Mr. Nassef.

The success of democracy and free market economies relies upon integrity and honesty within government and business.

"The principal driving force is a moral driving force. You can't have a successful democracy if people can't trust their government," said Mr. Nassef. He added that when that is the case the public would no longer depend on the ballot box but would turn to alternative methods to express their opinions and grievances.

He recommended that

established rules, rather than rigid laws, should be implemented and monitored by employees who should be guaranteed the opportunity

placed on the individual for whom a code of conduct should be laid down, Jordan's director of the Audit Bureau and member of the Royal Commission for Modernisation and Reform (RCMR), Abed Kharabsheh, said that corruption negatively affects governments, institutions and administration, preventing proper application of laws.

Corruption, he said, leads to increased crime, reduction in public revenues and creates a "maldistribution of income and reduces economic growth rates."

He added that correct behaviour should be respected and encouraged with incentives, while punitive measures should be applied where incorrect behaviour is revealed.

After the WorldNet dialogue Dr. Kharabsheh, who has been the director of the Audit Bureau for three years, told the Jordan Times that the bureau undertook its task "very seriously" and that he expected the government to regard the bureau's annual reports with equal seriousness.

"The government is trying to address the problems (highlighted by the bureau's annual report), but currently there are many issues to discuss and it's all a matter of priority," Dr. Kharabsheh added.

The chairman of the Department of Public Administration at the University of Jordan, Mohammad Yaqubi, asked whether corruption should be tackled through a group or specific individuals.

Dr. Yaqubi asked: "How can we make individuals honest and trustworthy and how can we attack those responsible (for corruption)?"

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Those sources cite, among the issues that constituted a point of contention between Dr. Majali and Mr. Hindawi, the latter's opposition to recent reshuffles and appoint-

NEWS IN BRIEF

10 hanged in Iran for armed robbery

TEHRAN (AFP) — Ten people convicted of armed robbery have been hanged in southern Iran, Kayhan newspaper reported Tuesday. The 10 were accused by revolutionary court in Bandar Abbas in Hormozgan province, of robbery, extortion and arms smuggling. They were executed Monday. People convicted of armed robbery have been automatically handed the death penalty since 1989.

Japanese, Egyptian journalists killed in crash

NAIROBI (AFP) — Two Japanese journalists and a Egyptian cameraman were killed when their light aircraft crashed near the Kenyan capital Tuesday, along with their pilot and co-pilot, a Japanese spokesman said. The chartered plane, en route to Goma, Zaire, crashed at 10:45 a.m. (0745 GMT) in the Ngong hills some 425 miles (25 miles) southwest of Nairobi, said Major Tsugunoro Komatsu, a Japanese air-lift operations officer. He named the two dead Japanese journalists as Hiroshi Numazawa, 36, the Nairobi bureau chief of the Kyodo news agency, and Toshihiko Irie, 32, of Fuji Television. In Tokyo, news reports said the Cairo bureau chief of Fuji Television was among the five people killed. Major Komatsu said he did not know the names of the Egyptian cameraman or the aircrash. The journalists had been on their way to eastern Zairen town to cover the pull-out of a 250-strong Japanese military contingent there which has been purified like water for Rwandan refugees in nearby camps. Eight Japanese doctors have also been working in Goma.

Police raid paper after Algerian arms story

ZURICH (R) — Swiss police on Tuesday raided the office of a newspaper which carried a

Economy

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1994

Record harvest boosts Moroccan growth by 11%

ABD (R) — Moroccan finance Minister Mourad Cherif predicts economic growth this year will be around 11 per cent thanks mainly to the biggest cereal crop on record.

Presenting the 1995 budget parliament Tuesday, Mr. Cherif forecast economic growth next year at least 2.5 per cent if there is an average harvest, and up to 4.5 per cent if it is above average.

The high 1994 growth rate is "due largely to an excellent agricultural season. The industrial and services sectors registered growth estimated at 3.5 per cent," he said in his budget speech.

Plentiful winter rains broke a two-year drought and produced a cereal crop of 9.6 million tonnes in the season that ended in June.

Autumn rains this year have been barely average so far, but it is hoped there will be further rainfall in December to March when wheat and barley crops are maturing.

Mr. Cherif said inflation would be kept down to five per cent this year and forecast a rate of four per cent for next year.

He said the 1995 budget would keep the treasury deficit down to 2.5 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) and the current account deficit at two per cent of GDP.

High growth was achieved this year despite budget difficulties caused mainly by a rise in the average price of oil and a considerable increase in the price of food products on international markets.

"The relatively favourable international context will cost our exports, produce an upsurge in economic activity and growth of foreign investments," Mr. Cherif said.

Brazil to favour Falkland over M.E. oil imports

LONDON (R) — Brazil wants to reduce its oil imports from the Middle East and increase imports from the Falkland Islands if exploration off the Argentine coast proves fruitful, Brazil has said.

Brazilian ambassador to London Rubens Barbosa told reporters the dispute between Britain and Argentina over the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands would not stand in the way of oil exploration and Brazil, one of the world's largest oil importers, would be keen to help exploit the region's resources.

"If there is oil there and there is an (international commercial) tender... in the next 10 years there will be a decision in our buying from the Middle East," Mr. Barbosa said. "The geopolitical strategy will change completely."

Latin America's biggest economy, Brazil consumes an estimated 1.2 million barrels of oil a day (b/d), importing 55 to 60 per cent of it from abroad.

Last year Brazilian oil imports from Argentina totalled \$700 million. It buys some 250,000 b/d from the Middle East, chiefly from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iran and Qatar.

Britain and Argentina have been holding slow-moving negotiations over exploration in the region and any deal, which must make no mention of sovereignty, needs the approval of the Falkland Islanders.

But Mr. Barbosa said he did not expect the issue of the islands' sovereignty to hinder progress.

Organisation of African Unity facing a very critical financial situation

ADDIS ABABA (R) — The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) is broke and is owed more than \$64 million in arrears while being urged to do more in the world's poorest continent.

"The OAU has run out of money and is facing a very critical financial situation," OAU Acting Secretary-General Ahmad Haggag told Reuters at its headquarters in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa.

He said the OAU's new roles in conflict management and election monitoring in a continent beset by unrest and a wave of polls had used up little money the organisation had.

"The financial situation is very critical because member states have failed to pay their annual contributions," said Mr. Haggag, adding that they owed a total of \$64 million in arrears.

Haggag said only an estimated \$1 million had so far been paid towards the organisation's 1994-95 budget of \$30 million.

OAU sources said the organisation had only been saved from imminent financial collapse because its newest member South Africa had donated \$2 million to ease the financial crisis.

Mr. Haggag said OAU Secretary-General Salim Ahmad Salim was currently touring African capitals in an attempt to impress on governments the gravity of the organisation's money problems.

Egypt owes \$1.6 million and Nigeria \$1.5 million in

arrears.

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OAU sources said the organisation had only been saved from imminent financial collapse because its newest member South Africa had donated \$2 million to ease the financial crisis.

Despite calls and plans for it to take a more active role in peacekeeping, the OAU failed to send any forces since an ill-fated attempt to police an end to civil war in Chad in the mid-1980s.

Member states are supposed to contribute to the OAU in accordance with their assessments for the United Nations but the organisation has long had a problem with arrears. In 1987, for instance, arrears in contribution amounted to some \$47 million.

The role of the OAU, which was set up in 1963 to promote unity and solidarity among African states, in

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**Business
Daily
Beat**

A review
of economic news
from the Arabic press

New entity makes it easy to get a loan

★★ The Jordan Loan Guarantee Corporation has started its operations and is accepting applications from entrepreneurs of small and medium-size projects. The corporation's objective is to provide an entrepreneur with a guarantee based on a viable project, to obtain a loan from a commercial bank which is usually unwilling to extend credit without some form of a collateral. The guarantee from the corporation would serve as a security required by a bank should the entrepreneur not be able to provide a collateral for the loan. The corporation has a JD 7 million capital spread among 24 shareholders. The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has a JD 3 million equity and the rest belongs to 17 banks, the Social Security Corporation, the Amman Chamber of Commerce, the Amman Chamber of Industry and two insurance companies. CBJ Governor Mohammad Said Nabulsi is the chairman of the board (Al Ra'i).

★★ Two senior bankers from Barclays Bank PLC are here on a visit that will last until Dec. 10, 1994. The bankers seek to obtain a better understanding of the Jordanian market and will be meeting representatives from the Amman Financial Market, the department responsible for foreign investment, and three leading stockbrokers. The British Bank of the Middle East is making all the arrangements for the guests.

★★ According to informed sources at the Ministry of Agriculture, a national agricultural statistical survey will be done in 1995 which should lead to more accurate information about the agricultural sector and its development (Al Aswaq).

★★ In some areas in Amman, a kilogramme of tomatoes is selling for 950 fils when the price fixed by the government and published in newspapers is 550 fils for the best quality (Al Aswaq).

★★ The head of the society of moneychangers said the society had not taken any decision to ban trading in Israeli shekel. Noting that moneychangers have not yet received the Central Bank decision to lift the ban, he said that the society was ready to deal with the Israelis but that does not mean that the society can force a moneychanger to trade in shekels. He stressed that moneychangers are free to trade in shekel to suit their own interests (Al Aswaq).

★★ A Romanian business delegation will buy Jordanian medicines worth about \$10 million next year from Dar Al Dawa Development and Investment Company. The head of the delegation said about 10 kinds of Jordanian drugs are currently being marketed in Romania. Jordan exported a total of JD 70.4 million worth of drugs last year, compared to JD 54.9 million in 1992 (Al Aswaq).

★★ The general assembly of the Arab International Food Factories Company has completed all registration requirements. The company has a JD 6 million capital and will be producing baby food and milk of all kinds under a preliminary agreement which is still being negotiated with an international company. Major shareholders in the company are: The International Arab Company for Education and Investment (JD 600,000) Abdallah Abu Khadidj (JD 600,000) and Ahmad Khattab (JD 300,000).

| AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET | | | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|---------|---------|--|
| HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - EGYPTIAN | | | | | |
| TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663170 | | | | | |
| ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY | | | | | |
| MORNING SESSION | | | | | |
| | | 06/12/1994 | | | |
| ARAB BANK | 60 | 11,040 | 184,000 | 184,000 | |
| JORDAN NATIONAL BANK | 2,600 | 11,928 | 4,600 | 4,590 | |
| BANK OF JORDAN | 5,600 | 7,755 | 1,620 | 1,590 | |
| MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK | 500 | 7,749 | 2,980 | 2,980 | |
| INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK | 2,600 | 22,400 | 5,650 | 5,600 | |
| THE TEL BANK | 4,000 | 16,013 | 3,050 | 3,050 | |
| JORDAN KUWAIT BANK | 5,240 | 10,100 | 1,000 | 1,000 | |
| JORDAN GULF BANK | 1,140 | 11,135 | 3,720 | 3,720 | |
| JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK | 3,000 | 2,605 | 5,000 | 5,210 | |
| JOHN BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT | 500 | 744 | 3,720 | 3,720 | |
| BUDWEISER BEER | 200 | 1,212 | 5,000 | 4,950 | |
| JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK | 250 | 2,636 | 3,720 | 3,720 | |
| HEIT BANK SAVING & INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING | 300 | 159,543 | 1,560 | 1,520 | |
| AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT | 104,350 | 2,656 | 1,800 | 1,750 | |
| PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK | 1,500 | 8,281 | 1,580 | 1,570 | |
| JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER | 5,275 | 11,714 | 1,530 | 1,520 | |
| JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW | 7,750 | 1,016 | 1,000 | 1,000 | |
| JORDAN HIRSH MINERAL | 200 | 41,079 | 3,280 | 3,260 | |
| JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES | 12,600 | 2,251 | 2,550 | 2,490 | |
| NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES | 900 | 1,273 | 1,440 | 1,400 | |
| REAL ESTATE | 1,200 | 2,682 | 3,720 | 3,720 | |
| JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT | 2,100 | 4,024 | 3,820 | 3,820 | |
| HACHINNA EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE | 500 | 1,650 | 3,320 | 3,320 | |
| UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONDOREE HOTELS | 10,200 | 25,542 | 2,500 | 2,510 | |
| ALTAJAH INDUSTRIAL MANUFACTURING | 4,000 | 12,113 | 2,000 | 2,080 | |
| THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES | 42,133 | 18,015 | 1,500 | 1,500 | |
| JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES | 6,600 | 575 | 3,982 | 3,960 | |
| JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY | 300 | 537 | 1,840 | 1,790 | |
| HOUSING BANK | 1,511 | 12,473 | 9,000 | 8,150 | |
| THE JORDAN MORTGAGE MILLS | 4,138 | 2,527 | 1,450 | 1,430 | |
| ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING | 4,500 | 870 | 4,350 | 4,350 | |
| JORDAN DAIRY | 10,125 | 1,617 | 2,950 | 2,940 | |
| THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING | 550 | 1,595 | 2,900 | 2,900 | |
| JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES | 1,000 | 2,610 | 4,320 | 4,320 | |
| RAFIA INDUSTRIES | 100 | 2,728 | 2,720 | 2,720 | |
| DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT | 600 | 10,470 | 17,450 | 17,450 | |
| JORDAN INDUSTRIAL & INTERNATIONAL TRADE | 11,400 | 11,885 | 1,040 | 1,040 | |
| ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY | 650 | 4,550 | 7,200 | 7,000 | |
| LIVESTOCK & POULTRY | 16,950 | 17,525 | 1,000 | 1,000 | |
| ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING | 3,190 | 1,527 | 1,450 | 1,430 | |
| INDUSTRIAL PLASTIC INDUSTRIES | 200 | 870 | 4,350 | 4,350 | |
| JORDAN ROCKWOOL INDUSTRIES | 1,150 | 1,627 | 2,950 | 2,940 | |
| JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JWCO | 11,130 | 9,610 | 9,866 | 9,850 | |
| JORDAN STEEL & METALS | 2,400 | 5,068 | 2,200 | 2,150 | |
| RAVTECH INVESTMENT | 2,000 | 6,250 | 1,900 | 1,850 | |
| UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES | 2,650 | 11,578 | 4,250 | 4,270 | |
| JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO. | 8,750 | 23,905 | 2,760 | 2,730 | |
| GRAND TOTAL | 301,305 | 664,517 | | | |
| NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET | 160900 | | | | |
| TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET | JD 198651 | | | | |

| Financial Markets | | Jordan Times | | | |
|--|--|------------------|--|--|--|
| in co-operation with | | Cairo Amman Bank | | | |
| U.S. Dollar in International Markets | | | | | |
| Currency | | | | | |
| New York Close Date: 5/12/94 | | | | | |
| London Close Date: 6/12/94 | | | | | |
| Sterling Pound 1,5570 1,5596** | | | | | |
| Deutsche Mark 1,5717 1,5719 | | | | | |
| Swiss Franc 1,3255 1,3252** | | | | | |
| French Franc 5,3950 5,3953** | | | | | |
| Japanese Yen 100,36 100,42 | | | | | |
| European Currency Unit 1,2140 1,2134** | | | | | |
| 1 USD for 100: European Sterling = 3,60 a.m. GMT | | | | | |
| Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 6/12/1994 | | | | | |
| Currency 1 MTHS 3 MTHS 6 MTHS 12 MTHS | | | | | |
| U.S. Dollar 5,87 6,12 6,62 7,06 | | | | | |
| Sterling Pound 5,62 6,12 6,62 7,00 | | | | | |
| Deutsche Mark 5,06 5,00 5,12 5,43 | | | | | |
| Swiss Franc 3,75 3,93 4,12 4,83 | | | | | |
| French Franc 5,31 5,50 5,68 6,12 | | | | | |
| Japanese Yen 2,18 2,18 2,31 2,56 | | | | | |
| European Currency Unit 5,68 5,78 5,90 6,53 | | | | | |
| Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent. | | | | | |
| Precious Metals Date: 6/12/1994 | | | | | |
| Metal USD/Oz JD/Gm* Metal USD/Oz JD/Gm | | | | | |
| Gold 576,50 7,50 Silver 4,65 0,105 | | | | | |
| * 1 Karat | | | | | |
| Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 6/12/1994 | | | | | |
| Currency Bid Offer | | | | | |
| U.S. Dollar 0,7030 0,7050 | | | | | |
| Sterling Pound 1,0944 1,0999 | | | | | |
| Deutsche Mark 0,4468 0,4490 | | | | | |
| Swiss Franc 0,5296 0,5322* | | | | | |
| French Franc 0,1301 0,1308 | | | | | |
| Japanese Yen 0,6991 0,7026 | | | | | |
| Dutch Guilder 0,3991 0,4011 | | | | | |
| Swedish Krona 0,0000 0,0000 | | | | | |
| Italian Lira 0,0434 0,0436 | | | | | |
| Belgian Franc 0,0000 0,0000 | | | | | |
| Per 100 | | | | | |
| Other Currencies Date: 6/12/1994 | | | | | |
| Currency Bid Offer | | | | | |
| Bahraini Dinar 1,8490 1,8620 | | | | | |
| Lebanese Lira 0,051300 0,042700 | | | | | |
| Saudi Riyal 0,1862 0,1880 | | | | | |
| Kuwaiti Dinar 2,3000 2,3600 | | | | | |
| Qatari Riyal 0,1919 0,1932 | | | | | |

AC Milan cannot afford to lose to Salzburg

LONDON (AP) — AC Milan's reign as Europe's most powerful soccer team will come to an end Wednesday if it fails to beat modest Austrian club Casino Salzburg in the Champions League.

Defending titlist in a competition it has won three times in the last six seasons, Milan needs a victory in Salzburg to scramble into the quarterfinal. Otherwise, its season is virtually over.

Current form does not point to success for the star-studded Milanese club, which is low on morale and even trailing well behind in the Italian League it usually dominates.

The team's 2-0 loss to Argentina's Velez Sarsfield Thursday in the World Cup Championship in Tokyo means Milan will likely end the season without a single trophy. It also has been eliminated from the Italian Cup.

"This is the same team which won the Champions Cup last season," Milan's managing director Adriano Galliani said. "This sudden fall is puzzling all of us."

Or maybe it's just the end of an era.

The lineup that crushed Barcelona 4-0 in last season's final in Athens, including standout Montenegrin midfielder Dejan Savicevic, all are available for the game in Salzburg. Now Milan needs another performance like the one in the final.

"It's in or out," coach Fabio Capello said. "It's a

game we must definitely win. But I can't hide that the team morale is low following the defeat against Velez."

That was Milan's ninth de-

feat in its last 21 games and the odds are that Salzburg will join already qualified Ajax Amsterdam in the last eight. Ajax hosts AEK Athens in the other Group D game.

Other teams already through to the quarterfinals are IFK Goteborg from Group A, Paris Saint Germain from Group B and Benfica and Hajduk Split from Group C.

Goteborg is a surprise qualifier because Barcelona and Manchester United were favoured to advance from the group. Now one of the two powerhouses will be eliminated.

United, in third place and a point behind Barcelona, hopes to beat Turkey's Galatasaray at home while the Spanish titlist will try to avoid a home loss to the Swedes.

The other close battle is in Group B.

Mathematically, even last

place Dynamo Kiev can advance if it gains a high-scoring home victory over Bayern Munich. Dynamo has only two points, two fewer than Bayern and second place Moscow Spartak.

But Spartak must travel to standers leader Paris Saint Germain, which has won all five games so far. Victories for Dynamo and PSG will mean the second qualifying place from the group will be

decided on goal differential.

In Group C, Benfica, with

eight points from five games, travels to Belgium's Anderlecht while Hajduk, six points, hosts Steaua Bucharest.

Although Milan beat Salzburg 3-0 at San Siro, the Italians had the two points taken away by UEFA, soccer's European governing body, because the Casino

goalkeeper Otto Konrad was struck on the head by a bottle thrown by a home fan.

Manchester United winners Ryan Giggs and Lee Sharpe, defender Paul Parker

know that when Barcelona is pressed it's always able to respond."

Bayern Munich also is gloomy after a loss to lowly Dynamo Dresden in Bundesliga action at the weekend and club president Franz Beckenbauer says he wants more enterprise from the team. Franz Beckenbauer says he wants more enterprise from the team.

"This boring playing around I don't want to see anymore," the former World Cup star said.

"We have to change the

failed to show up for a domestic game Saturday.

Ghanaian captain Anthony Yeboah, Nigeria's Jay Okocha and German playmaker Maurizio Gaudino are in dispute with team coach Jupp Heynckes over an extra training session he called last week.

Eintracht goes to Napoli Wednesday defending a 1-0 first leg lead.

Six other UEFA Cup games are being staged Tuesday with another on Thursday and Italy hopes to have four teams in the quarterfinal draw.

Juventus, titlist twice in the last five seasons, has a 3-1 advantage over Austrian team Admira Wacker, and Lazio is 2-1 ahead of Turkey's Trabzonspor.

The fourth Italian Club is Parma, which is 1-0 down to Athletic Bilbao but riding high atop the domestic league standings. Parma is without broken ankle victim Thomas Brodin but welcomes back Colombian striker Faustino Asprilla.

Real Madrid holds a 3-2 lead over Denmark's Odense while another Spanish club, Deportivo de La Coruna, must defend a 1-0 advantage over Borussia Dortmund without Brazilian star Bebeto, who is suffering from pneumonia.

Germany's Bayer Leverkusen holds a 4-1 lead over Poland's Katowice while, on Thursday, French standings leader Nantes visits Sion cushioned by a 4-0 first leg advantage.

EUROPEAN SOCCER

and Danish goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel are sidelined through injury while Mark Hughes and Paul Ince are suspended.

Ukrainian winger Andrei Kanchelskis also may miss the game against the Turks at Old Trafford because of a stomach muscle injury but at least French striker Eric Cantona is available.

Barcelona is striving to overcome a surprise 2-1 loss to Galatasaray and two winless performances in the Spanish League, but it showed with its 4-0 victory over United a month ago that it can lift its performance at the right time.

"We mustn't be taken by surprise this time," Dutch sweeper Ronald Koeman said. "We know the quality of the opposition, but we also

team, give it a new face, therefore we'll have to make a cut at the end of the season."

Spartak coach Oleg Romanov had told his team to forget all about what happens in Kiev between Dynamo and Bayern Munich as his team faces in-form PSG.

"I am putting my players in a winning frame of mind," he said. "We mustn't depend on the outcome of Kiev's game."

Dynamo hopes that striker Viktor Leonenko, who has scored three Champions League goals this season, could be the matchwinner against the Germans.

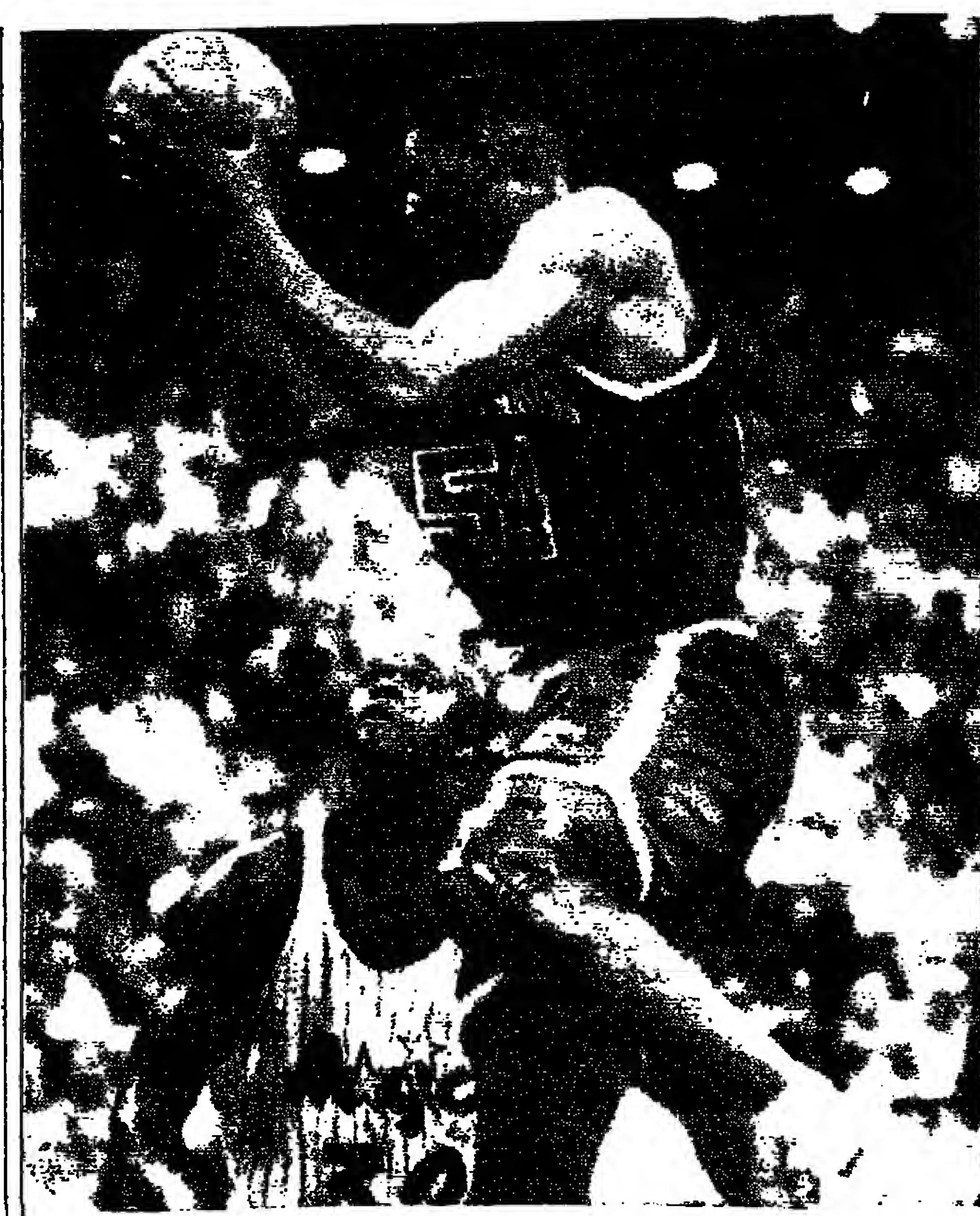
Eintracht Frankfurt's chances of reaching the last eight of the UEFA Cup may be hampered by a dispute involving three players who

are suspended.

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NY Knicks forward Charles Smith (right) goes up for a shot in front of Orlando's Shaquille O'Neal #32 during their Dec. 2 game

NBA runner-up NY Knicks off to slow start

WASHINGTON (Agencies)

— Patrick Ewing and the New York Knicks finished one victory shy of the National Basketball Association title last season.

Now they are struggling to stay within reach of fast-starting Orlando and trying to hold off Boston in the league's Atlantic Division.

"We're just trying to get turned on and playing with intensity. That's what it's all about," said coach Pat Riley, whose Knicks and Los Angeles Lakers clubs have never failed to win a division crown.

And after the remarkably high attendances at the 1994 World Cup in the United States, FIFA would be unlikely to risk handing their showpiece to a land of armchair fans.

loss in Orlando.

"It feels good, but it's not totally satisfying," said forward Charles Smith, who scored 23 points on Saturday.

"It was a good win, but we have to look at the overall picture. And in Orlando, we hit rock bottom."

The Knicks desperately need Ewing's 20.4-point average — the lowest since his rookie season — to improve. His 8.4 rebounds a game average is his lowest in seven seasons.

"Our rebounding is down from everybody across the board," Riley said. "Patrick concentrates on going to the boards and that's when it comes back. We're going to need more of that."

Everybody's so frustrated. We all know the streak is hanging over us and we all don't want to be remembered that way," centre Matt Fish said.

Larry Johnson scored 18 points and Hershey Hawkins added 17 for the Hornets, who are 8-4 since their 0-3 start and have surrendered fewer than 100 points in a club-record seven straight games.

Hawkins powered Charlotte to a 37-27 lead through one quarter with 11 points. The clips got as close as 10 points with seven minutes left in the first half, but they never got nearer as the Hornets broke it open with a 13-2 run and opened an 83-56 lead with 25 seconds left in the third quarter.

Lamond Murray scored 14 points for Los Angeles, which has dropped 20 straight games overall and 30 of 32 since March 25.

New coach Bill Fitch hasn't helped.

"Some of us are just glutted for punishment," Charlotte centre Robert Parish said with a chuckle after the game.

"One thing about Bill is that he always thrives and blossoms in situations like this. He seems to be motivated by rebuilding a programme and getting it off the ground."

In his first season with the Clippers, Fitch has eclipsed the expansion Cleveland Cavaliers as a rookie NBA coach in 1970. He has since gone on to coach more games than anyone in league history.

Arlington racetrack will not open in '95

CHICAGO (AP) — Arlington International Racecourse, one of the top thoroughbred tracks in the United States, will not open next year because its owner was not granted a riverboat racing license.

Owner Richard Duchossois said Monday time ran out on his two-year effort to protect Illinois' horse racing and breeding from competition from riverboat gambling when the legislature adjourned last week.

"We put forward a plan to save quality racing in Illinois, but it was not to be," he said. "Others offered no alternative options, plans or proposals. We failed."

His announcement was immediately followed by talk of trying to get the track reopened through legislative action.

Duchossois has said parimutuel betting has dwindled because of competition from riverboats and the quality of racing is suffering.

He said with competition from a riverboat casino in Elgin, the Arlington Heights Racecourse faced two unacceptable probabilities in 1995 — the demise of high-class racing in Illinois as well as the loss of the Arlington Million and 19 other graded stakes races.

Duchossois also said the track faced a projected 1995 operating loss of \$6 million to \$10 million.

"After 11 years of hard work to build world-class racing in the Chicago land area, we are unwilling to preside over its demise," he said.

Mark Gordon, a spokesman for Illinois Senate President James "Pete" Philip, said he hoped Duchossois would reconsider.

"We don't want to lose any major employer in the state," Gordon said. "It'd be a real tragedy if Arlington would close."

Gordon said that starting with the next legislative session "we'd be willing to consider any reasonable package to keep the horse-racing industry viable in Illinois."

Mike Lawrence, a spokesman for Gov. Jim Edgar, said the decision was detrimental to Illinois' horse racing.

"Mr. Duchossois was not interested in anything short of having all of his demands met," Mr. Lawrence said.

The Illinois House speaker in the next legislative session, Rep. Lee Daniel, said from Springfield: "We're still hoping something can be done so that we can see racing at Arlington in the future."

Duchossois last week met with Edgar in an effort to broker a deal on riverboat gambling that would keep Arlington Open.

Empty stadiums haunt hosts of top African tournament

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Lack of spectator support has cast a deep shadow over South African football just one year before they host the 1996 African Nations' Cup finals.

On a continent where most national teams regularly perform in front of huge crowds, South Africa have consistently failed to attract large audiences.

Even the appearance of 1992 African Footballer of the Year Abedi Pele and other European-based stars for Ghana did not entice more than 10,000 fans to Pretoria last month.

And when South Africa faced a Cameroon team including the legendary Roger

Milla at the weekend in the concluding game of a four-nation tournament, fewer than 20,000 supporters turned up.

The dismal crowds are blamed on too much live TV coverage, high admission charges and competing forms of entertainment offered by a sophisticated society.

South Africa also lacks a national star like Pele, Kafusha Bwalya of Zambia or Rashidi Yekini of Nigeria to sell football to an audience who can choose from an array of sports.

Ironically, while spectators in other countries pack into a limited number of largely decaying stadiums, South Africa

boasts many international-standard venues.

Since returning to international football in July 1992 after almost three decades of apartheid-induced isolation, South Africa have played at nine venues, including three in Johannesburg.

But only Zambia, who filled Ellis Park rugby stadium for a match to celebrate the inauguration of Nelson Mandela as president, and World Cup rivals Nigeria attracted good crowds.

When South Africa replaced cash-strapped Kenya as Nations' Cup hosts last month, they inherited an expanded, 16-team tournament

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Sampras races home

MUNICH (AP) — World number one Pete Sampras raced to a straight sets win over Jaime Yzaga of Peru Tuesday in his opening match at the six million dollar Grand Slam Cup. Sampras, winner of more than \$3.6 million in prize money this year and the victor at the Australian Open, Wimbledon and the ATP Tour finals, won 6-2, 6-4 in 56 minutes. The Peruvian had beaten Sampras in the fourth round at the U.S. Open.

Former British champion to ride in Japan

TOKYO (R) — Former British champion jockey Michael Roberts is seeking a three-month contract to ride in Japan from early next year, a Japanese sports newspaper said Tuesday. Nikkan Sports said the South African-born jockey, who won the prestigious King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes in 1988 and 1992, is expected to compete in Japanese races for three months beginning next February. British jockey Alan Munro, who won the 1991 Epsom Derby on Generous, completed a three-month riding stint in Japan last weekend, having earned 14.5 million yen (\$145,000) and having won 14 races out of 143 rides.

Japanese swansong for Baresi

ROME (AP) — AC Milan and Italy captain Franco Baresi is expected to play in the Japanese J-League next season, Italian television said Tuesday. The 34-year-old, whose missed penalty contributed to Italy's World Cup final defeat to Brazil in Los Angeles in July, has only just announced his retirement from international football. Baresi was believed to be negotiating an 18-month contract with Yokohama Flugels. The Japanese club was also reported to be interested in Baresi's former Milan teammate Ruud Gullit, now with Sampdoria, and Brazil's German-based World Cup captain Carlos Dunga. AS Rome defender Fabio Petrucci, 24, was seen as Baresi's likely replacement at Milan.

Group denies deal to move Rams from LA

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The group trying to bring a National Football League team to St. Louis has denied reports that a deal had been finalized with the Los Angeles Rams. Former Sen. Thomas F. Eagleton, point man for Fans Inc., said at a news conference on Monday that while he was still confident that a deal could be worked out, it was far from being finalized. ESPN had reported on a pregame show on Sunday that Fans Inc. had closed a deal with the Rams late last week. Rams president John Shaw told reporters in Los Angeles on Sunday that many details remained to be resolved and that no decision on a move would be made for "at least a couple of weeks."

French midfielder sidelined with injury

NAPLES (AP) — Alain Boghossian, the French midfielder of Italian first-division Napoli, may be sidelined for the rest of the 1994-95 season following a serious knee injury suffered in Sunday's league game against Torino. Napoli doctors reported Monday that the 24-year-old player, formerly of Marseille, damaged his right knee tendons following a play incident and will need several months to recover.

Stich sets up AIDS foundation

STUTTGART (AP) — German tennis star Michael Stich deposited 500,000 marks (\$320,000) from his own winnings to establish a foundation for child AIDS sufferers here Monday. The Stich Foundation will help ease the suffering of the children, said the world number nine, "give them something to wipe away their tears and make them laugh." Top players will compete in a tournament in Mannheim in February to raise funds for the cause, he said, adding "with capital growth, the foundation will help child AIDS cases for decades to come."

NHL negotiators resume talks

CHICAGO (AP) — Negotiators for hockey players and owners resumed negotiations Monday with time running out to salvage a season. Stalemated talks broke off Friday

King Hussein: Jordan grateful for Dutch support

Your Majesty Queen Beatrix, Your Royal Highness Prince Claus, Our dear friends,

It is a privilege and a pleasure for me on behalf of Noor and for myself, on behalf of the people and the government of Jordan, to welcome you among us on this State Visit to Jordan as dear friends, as old friends and as good friends.

We are ever proud of the relations that have linked us over the years and that have grown between us and between our countries and peoples. There are many memories of your previous visit to Jordan, and long ago before that, of the very first time I went to Europe and the west to study, following the loss of Jordan's founder, a man of peace, my late grandfather, to fulfil his wish that I should study with my late cousin the King of Iraq at Harrow in England.

I went to Damascus on the way and I was the guest of KLM, the Royal Dutch Airlines which took me to Amsterdam where I saw a beautiful city, during the tulip season, and where I had the opportunity to gain an impression that has never faded, and then on to England.

Over the years I've had the privilege and the pleasure of seeing this friendship grow between our countries and ourselves and our families and I hope that this will be the case in all the years to come. Beyond that there are many ties and there are many common interests; a paramount one is care of the environment. I remember Your Majesty, having the privilege of representing Jordan at the Hague Conference which showed and reflected the concern of those who participated there in the future of our planet and its people and its resources and beyond that, the cause of

peace in this region and in the world.

I am happy that after all these years your visit comes to this country following the fulfilment of a dream, as far as I was concerned throughout my life, of the establishment of peace in this region, for its peoples. We have taken one additional step ... (along with) our Palestinian brethren, whom we have supported and will continue to support to the best of our ability to recover their rights on their legitimate soil. We have taken a step to establish an honourable peace that has restored to us our land and the fair share of our water.

Beyond that, (as) result of our common endeavours in both countries and desire to see an end to the fighting, to the turmoil, to the uncertainty with which we live.

(So our legacy for the future generations is) the comprehensive peace which we are certain will arrive to this area and to this land and where Jerusalem hopefully will become the essence and the meaning of peace between the followers of the three great monotheistic religions, the Abrahamic religions.

We hope that a solution will encompass the rights of Palestinians on their soil and land and in terms of the implementation of Security Council resolution 242, and we hope that Jerusalem can become a symbol of peace between the Palestinians and Israelis, the Arabs and the Israelis and all the followers of the three great monotheistic religions.

We know how concerned, Your Majesty, you have been personally with the issue of peace in this region, and we know that during the very difficult times that we have passed and our march has not been easy, nor has it been smooth, but this is a turbulent part of the world. We value, above all, the friends

who stand by us, who understand us time and again, and who stand by us during times of difficulty. There is no way by which we can repay the warmth and the hospitality we received from you and your government and people, and it is indeed above value. It is something that we treasure and cherish for all the times to come.

I am happy that (regarding) the economic dimension last year, the volume of trade was \$108 million. I hope it will grow in the times ahead as well as in all fields.

In terms of peace, where our troops serve jointly with the U.N., we in Jordan are rated as the fifth country in the world in terms of the size of its contribution to peace efforts in the world and the second in the former Yugoslavia.

With regard to peace in this region, of peace in the world and with regard to the environment and the future of mankind I hope that we will continue to work together to see the fulfilment of many further dreams and hopes and aspirations for all of us. This is our commitment and we will do whatever we can for the future. We are dedicated to the cause of generations to come.

Your Majesty, Your Royal Highness I know how much this visit means to Noor and me and to Jordanians as it comes at this particular time when you must be and you are, and we are very concerned and worried about the health of Prince Bernard, your dear and beloved father. Nonetheless, that you have honoured us with this visit is something that we always will remember and cherish in the times ahead. We pray for his good health and that of your dear mother as well.

Once again, I bid you a very hearty welcome on behalf of half of all of us. May God bless you...

Thank you.

Queen Beatrix: Peace heralds cooperation, prosperity

Your Majesty,

It is more than 16 years since, under very different circumstances, my husband and I paid an official visit to Jordan. Our State Visit now is not only an opportunity for us to see your country again, but also a reunion with you and the Queen, the Crown Prince and Princess, and the other members of your family. Fortunately there have been very regular, warm personal meetings between our families, during the past years and the younger generation is also following our good example. We look back with pleasure and gratitude to the many occasions on which we have been able to welcome you in our country. I would particularly like to recall your official visit in 1984 and your participation in the Hague summit conference on the Protection of the Global Atmosphere in 1989. That is why this visit is not only a happy reunion for us, but also the confirmation of a close friendship between our families — a friendship for which we are grateful.

In 1988, Your Majesty, you addressed the European Parliament in Strasbourg on the role of Jordan in the Middle East. You said then: "we have followed every avenue, exploited every opportunity, and bent over backwards to accommodate friend and foe alike to see a just and lasting peace in our troubled region." Now, six years later, we can affirm that, on this long road to peace, progress has been made that would have been unimaginable. The recent peace agreement concluded by your country has made a great impression in the Netherlands, as elsewhere, and has aroused fresh hope that the "just and lasting peace" has now indeed come within reach. The pictures of your impressive appearance in Israel which we have recently seen on television speak for themselves. It is clear, therefore, to my husband and me that our visit to Jordan takes place at an historic moment.

We know Jordan as a land that has risen out of the fluctuating history of this century. You, Your Majesty, have to a large extent written the history of your country. The peace agreement that has now been concluded is the crown on your work, on

the policy of overcoming differences and preventing conflicts that you have always pursued, with much personal courage and vision. With this policy you have proved yourself capable of bearing the heavy responsibility that was laid upon your shoulders at an early age. All over the world you are respected for the way in which, throughout your long reign, you have succeeded in making Jordan a land of conciliation.

The agreement now concluded implies more than the prospect of a future without armed conflict. It also opens the way to cooperation in the region as a new source of development and prosperity. With the falling away of hindrances that have so long existed here, Jordan and her neighbouring countries will be able to enter a new period of growth, with a large-scale programme of economic cooperation. The damage that war conditions have inflicted on the Jordanian economy in the recent past, can now, one would hope, soon be repaired.

This economic recovery will also have an important impact on the way you continue to handle the refugee problem. For many years your country has hospitality received large numbers of refugees. In so doing Jordan has further strengthened the constructive role it plays in the region by adding to it an important humanitarian dimension. The world was able to observe with admiration how the Jordanian people received vast numbers of refugees who poured in during the Gulf conflict. This involved great efforts by everyone and was done efficiently and with dignity.

Jordan, Your Majesty, the guardian of a rich heritage from a distant past. These treasures handed down by history are world famous. In the Netherlands there exists a lively interest in this aspect of your country, both among those who visit the archaeological treasures here out of personal interest, and among the experts who give concrete expression to the extensive research work in this field between our two countries. Archaeologists from your Yarmouk University and our University of Leiden are together studying the important civilisations that have succeeded one another in this region. Each of the great periods of your history,

— Assyrian, Egyptian, ancient Arabian, Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Biblical and early Islamic — has left its marks here and set its particular stamp on what has eventually become the Jordan of today. It is characteristic of the Jordanian people that they proudly cherish and preserve the gift from the past. With this rich historical legacy young Jordan is also — as the poet puts it — "half as old as time."



His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan receive Israeli Likud Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu who paid a one-day visit to Jordan yesterday (see story page 1)

Christopher tells Israel, Syria: No going back now

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher told Israel and Syria on Tuesday there could be no going back now in the search for Middle East peace.

The secretary was to brief Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Wednesday before going to Gaza City to see PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Mr. Christopher was slated to leave Israel early Thursday. It was unclear if he would return to Damascus.

To accept the status quo would only allow these extremists to prevail and would miss the historic opportunity to achieve a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

"And an opportunity that is not likely to come again."

Mr. Assad said Thursday that if he had to choose between the status quo and yielding to Israel's demands, "I would choose the current situation."

Mr. Rabin riposted Friday that if Mr. Assad preferred the status quo no one could impose peace on him.

"The status quo is not an answer to violence or terror it

will only invite more terror," said Mr. Christopher on his seventh Middle East shuttle this year to try to break the peace deadlock.

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Mr. Christopher was slated to leave Israel early Thursday. It was unclear if he would return to Damascus.

Before leaving Damascus Mr. Christopher told the state-run SANA news agency that Mr. Assad was "serious" in his determination to achieve peace.

"We are trying to clarify all the questions," Mr. Christopher said. He declined to elaborate.

Mr. Assad's spokesman, Gebran Kuriel, also said the talks were "serious" and that Mr. Christopher and the president "exchanged views on ways of pushing forward the peace process."

U.S. Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaz attended the meeting.

U.S.-mediated peace talks between Syria and Israel have been deadlocked over the terms and extent of a withdrawal from the Golan Heights, which the Jewish state conquered in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

"I stress that I am with President (Elias) Hrawi and Speaker (Nabil) Berri... and we will not allow the situation to remain in the same atmosphere that prevailed lately," Mr. Hrawi said in a televised statement.

This ended five days of political and financial turmoil after Mr. Hrawi's announcement on Friday that he was resigning because of what aides called "deep rifts" with Mr. Berri whom they blamed for blocking Mr. Hrawi's reconstruction efforts.

But Mr. Hrawi gave no details of a Syrian-brokered deal ending the crisis, which unleashed a \$300-million run on the Lebanese pound and unprecedented corruption charges by rival politicians.

"No country in the world can agree to such conditions. Why should we give them anything?" Mr. Peres said.

Hariri back in business

BEIRUT (R) — Billionaire Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri reversed his resignation decision on Tuesday, saying he will cooperate with top leaders to carry on rebuilding Lebanon from the ruins of civil war.

Mr. Assad, who spoke by telephone Sunday with U.S. President Bill Clinton, has been unflinching in his demand that Israel must first agree to pull out from the Golan Heights before peace talks progress.

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